



LAW OFFICES OF ERNEST HOLZBERG & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

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LEGAL UPDATE

SUMMER 2014

HIGHLIGHTS OF LEGAL NEWS & INFORMATION

In This Issue

This issue of our newsletter discusses how your medical records can help determine how much compensation you receive for your personal injury claim. It also tells about dangers to bicyclists by people opening car doors.

If you have a question about any article, please call us.

**Ernest Holzberg
& Associates**

Areas of Practice

- Auto, Motorcycle & Truck Accidents
- Bicycle Accidents
- Trips, Slips and Falls
- Medical Malpractice
- Product Injuries
- Construction and Work Accidents
- Falling Ceilings
- Building and Sidewalk Defects
- False Arrest/Police Misconduct
- Nursing Home Cases

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Medical Records Are a Vital Part of All Personal Injury and Medical Malpractice Cases

Medical records are an extremely important part of all personal injury or medical malpractice claims. Just like a house needs a strong foundation to stand up to the elements, your case needs a strong foundation to stand up to an insurance company or in the courtroom.

Medical or hospital records are legal proof that your injuries exist. When you have treatment at a doctor's office or a hospital, a

written medical record is created which includes your statements about how the accident happened, where you have pain, your diagnoses and the treatment you need. If you injured the same body part before, be sure to tell the doctor about it.

When you call or come to our office about your case, please bring the name and address of doctors or hospitals where you have received

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Car Doors and Bicycles – Danger Ahead!

With the creation of new bike lanes, bike rental kiosks and the increasing popularity of bicycle commuting generally, New York City's reputation as a bicycling friendly city is on the rise. In fact, the New York City Bicycle Master Plan has a goal of 1,800 bikelane miles by the year 2030.

While this is great news for people seeking transportation alternatives, bicycling in this town is still a risky proposition. Accord-

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Medical Records and Your Case, *continued*

treatment. We will have you sign an authorization and will obtain your records. If you prefer, you can get the records yourself and give us a copy.

If you are uncertain about which doctor is most appropriate for your injuries, we will assist

you in finding the right doctor. Finally, remember that the

amount of compensation you receive is mostly determined by what your medical

records say about your injury, so be sure to tell the doctor everything that is bothering you.

Medical or hospital records are legal proof that your injuries exist.

Car Doors and Bicycles, *continued*

ing to the NYC Department of Transportation (NYCDOT), there were more than 4,207 bicycle accidents and 20 bicyclists killed in 2013.

One type of bicycle accident that doesn't get discussed often is commonly referred to by cyclists as "the door prize," or simply being "doored." "Dooring" occurs when someone carelessly opens his or her car door into the path of a moving cyclist. New York law prohibits the opening and closing of car doors on the side where there is moving traffic - including bicycle traffic - unless it's safe to do so. Hitting a car door, even at a slow speed, can be deadly for the

rider. Even if the door just clips a handlebar, the cyclist could get thrown off the bike and fall into the path of other vehicles.

"Dooring" cases present complex legal issues. If you are involved in a "dooring" accident or any bicycle accident, you need an attorney who understands the law and the methods used in litigating this type of crash. If you are injured while riding your bicycle, call us. We know the law and have successfully handled numerous bicycle accident and "dooring" cases.

Finally, if you are a passenger or driver of a car, please check for passing bicyclists before opening your door!

IF AN INJURY OCCURS

If you are hurt in an accident, call us. We are dedicated to providing the highest quality legal representation to accident victims. We represent only accident victims — we do not represent insurance companies. We fight for your rights and try to quickly resolve your claim, with the goal of obtaining the maximum compensation for you.



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Referrals Welcome

When friends, family members or co-workers are in an accident and need legal help, please give them our name and phone number. Thank you.