

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

114 West 47th Street, 22nd Floor • New York, New York 10036 • (212) 391-1139

Legal Update



Fall 2004



Season's Greetings!

At this festive time of the year, it is a pleasure to express our holiday wishes to good friends such as you.

We sincerely appreciate the friendship and goodwill you have shown us.

We wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season, with happiness and prosperity in the coming year.

**Ernest Holzberg
& Associates**

Key Mistakes To Avoid If You Are In An Accident

If you are in an car, slip and fall or other kind of accident, the steps you take after it will have a big impact on the amount of compensation you receive. Here are some of the most common mistakes accident victims make that hurt their claims – and how you can prevent them if you are in an accident.

- *Not getting the right information at the accident scene.* It's hard to think clearly at an accident, but it's important to get information. After a car accident, get the names, addresses and phone numbers of all

witnesses and license plates of all vehicles involved. They may be vital to your case. Don't rely on the police or other parties to get this information – obtain it yourself.

- *Talking too much at the scene of an accident.* Many people say things like "it was my fault," or "I'm not hurt" right after an accident. What you say can be used against you, and statements like these – even if they are later shown to be wrong – can hurt your case. So don't discuss fault or your injuries. These issues often cannot be determined until later.

Continued on other side

About Our Firm

We handle all types of personal injury cases, including:

- Auto Accidents
- Slip and Falls
- Medical Malpractice
- Product Injuries
- Work Injuries
- Lead Poisoning

**Free
Consultation**

(212) 391-1139

After An Accident: The Importance Of Prompt Investigations

Many accident victims receive less compensation than they should. There are several reasons why, but one of the most important — and easily preventable — is they waited too long to see a lawyer and begin the claim process.

If you are in an accident, it's important to start the investigation and claim process quickly, as the time right after an accident can be vital. Evidence must be collected, witnesses must be interviewed, and the accident scene may need to be photographed. The more time passes, the more likely evidence

will deteriorate or disappear, and that witnesses will move or forget what happened. Also, in car accidents, the more time passes, the more likely that

Continued on other side

We Appreciate Referrals

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.

Importance of Prompt Investigations, *continued*

vehicles will be sold or fixed, making it harder to reconstruct what happened.

If you are in an accident, don't wait until you start having problems with an

insurance company or the other side before calling your lawyer. Seek legal help promptly after the accident. This will help make sure a proper investigation is made and the best case is presented for you.

Key Mistakes To Avoid After An Accident, *continued*

- *Waiting too long to seek medical help.* It's important to see a doctor promptly after an accident. One reason why is so your injuries can be treated fast. Another is that some injuries take time to develop, and a doctor can help minor injuries from getting worse. From the standpoint of making a claim, seeing a doctor early is important because some courts and juries feel that if you waited too long to see a doctor, your injuries were not so bad.

- *Accepting a fast settlement.* After an accident, it's tempting to accept a quick settlement to end the matter. But this will likely result in receiving too little money to cover all your injuries and losses. This is because your damages are not known until you

recover and all your losses can be totaled. Remember that once you agree to a settlement, you usually cannot ask for more money later.

- *Believing insurance adjusters are on your side.* Many accident victims mistakenly think insurance adjusters are trying to get them a fair settlement. The truth is adjusters work for the insurance company. Relying on what they say you are entitled to receive will cost you money.

These are some key mistakes accident victims make. If you are in an accident, even small mistakes can significantly hurt your recovery. Be on the safe side and consult your lawyer immediately so you can avoid these and other mistakes, and obtain the maximum compensation.

Is Your Headrest Adjusted Properly?

If you are in an accident, an improperly adjusted headrest can worsen your injuries. Studies show that nearly 90% of drivers have headrests adjusted too low.

According to the government, headrests should be two or less inches from the back of your head. They should be level with your ears so they contact your head (not your neck) in an accident.

IF AN INJURY OCCURS

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



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