



# The Lapidus Law Firm, PLLC

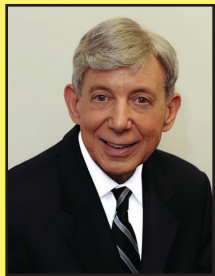


PERSONAL ATTENTION AND DEDICATION THROUGH EVERY PHASE OF THE CASE

Volume 2, Issue 7 llapidus@lapiduslawfirm.com ♦ www.attorneylapidus.com August 2013

## NEWSLETTER

### FROM THE DESK OF



**Lawrence S. Lapidus**

**How Lawyers Work with Doctors in Personal Injury Cases**

Trial Lawyers who handle personal injury cases depend upon Medical Doctors to provide objective medical information about how their clients were injured, the nature and extent of the injury involved and what caused the injuries that are generating the pain, impairments and disabilities. Because physicians are potential witnesses in such cases, a lawyer must deal with a physician in a formal way. It is also important that the lawyer have no financial arrangements with a doctor's office other than when a client authorizes the lawyer to withhold medical costs from the client's share of the recovery upon the settlement of the case. A doctor will agree to delay his or her fee in return for a written agreement to this effect. This arrangement has been declared by every Bar Association and Medical Society in this area to be perfectly proper and ethical. A few medical providers –mainly hospitals and some radiologists-- will either not accept a delay in payment or will turn the client's account into collection anyway. They will NOT notify the patient or the lawyer's office in advance that they are doing this. When we learn about this development, we do everything we can to stop the collection activity.

### HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO TO AVOID YOUR ACCOUNT GOING INTO COLLECTION IN THE FIRST PLACE:

1. Make sure the Hospital and other providers have your correct and current health insurance information. You can phone it in if you were too injured to provide it when admitted or seen.
2. If you do not have health insurance, check with us to ensure that if you do have PIP available (for Maryland residents), how we can obtain the PIP for you to pay the medical bills, or if you live in Virginia, how we can help you to obtain Med Pay benefits. If you do not have these coverages, buy them NOW.
3. Notify our office if you feel your bill will not be paid by a third party or you cannot afford to pay it. While lawyers are ethically prohibited from paying a client's medical bill, we can provide guidance about how to manage this to minimize the potential damage to your credit score. Call the Lapidus Law Firm if you are injured. We can help!



### The Fall & Injury Case: How to Protect Your Claim

Go on record with store management immediately if you are injured in a store. Insist on speaking with a manager and filling out an incident form in the store. Ask for a copy. Ask employees to tell you how long the substance you fell on had been on the floor. If you are unable to identify what caused you to fall or how long the hazardous condition had been on the floor, you will not be able to recover money for your injuries. If an ambulance is offered and if you feel you cannot get to the ER on your own immediately, accept the offer. Call the Lapidus Law Firm within 12 hours of the Injury, if not sooner. We can help!



If you, a friend, or relative have been injured in an auto accident, I can help.

**Call Me** for a

Free Consultation

**DC/VA 202-785-5111**

**MD 301-605-4296**

If you, a friend, or relative have been injured in an auto accident, I can help. **Call Me** for a Free Consultation  
llapidus@lapiduslawfirm.com 202 785-5111 www.attorneylapidus.com



**The Lapidus**  
Law Firm, PLLC



**The Lapidus**  
Law Firm, PLLC

1331 H Street, N. W., Suite 902, Washington, D.C. 20005