



The Lapidus Law Firm, PLLC



PERSONAL ATTENTION AND DEDICATION THROUGH EVERY PHASE OF THE CASE

Volume 3, Issue 5 llapidus@lapiduslawfirm.com ♦ www.attorneylapidus.com July 2014

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DESK OF



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SAFETY AND THE SUMMER MONTHS

I was saddened to recently read in the newspaper that 3 children in our region died from drowning in pools. The drowned children ranged in age from 6 to 14. The news article had no details, but we can assume that these children would not have drowned if routine safety procedures were followed. Every operation which involves the movement of people has a safety procedure: from the Metro to Malls, from Beaches to Biking. The law is uniform in requiring warning signs for known hazards (and those that should be known through routine inspections). Failure to warn is a standard allegation in injury claims dealing with the management of property. Please be aware of your surroundings when you go anywhere. Watch children in the pool or at the beach: don't let them out of your sight when they are in the water. Please accept my best wishes for a safe summer experience. If you, your family, friends co-workers, neighbors and acquaintances, are injured due to the fault of another person, legal entity, or health care provider, **call me, I can help!**

AUTO INSURANCE COMPANIES: HOW DO THEY SET THOSE RATES?

Trying to fathom how carriers set their rates is no easy task. The reason why is that auto insurance costs change periodically based on numerous factors, including their claim pay-out experience as well as market factors. "Claim experience" means how much the insurance industry collectively paid out to the injured over a specified time period. The rates are then set based on demographics of injured people which change over time. "Market factors" mean the rates of return for investment capital of the insurance companies as well as competitive pricing. Currently, the data shows that young people cause the most amount of accidents, so the insurance companies set higher rates for this group. As people live longer, continue to drive and accordingly, become involved in more accidents relative to other age groups in the population, the more expensive rates will most probably shift to senior citizens. Gender and marital status are also factors in rate setting, as unfair as this obviously is. Will previous accidents raise rates? Sometimes they may, but not by much. Some companies raise rates regardless of fault. Others do not. In any event, a history of previous accidents should not discourage anyone from pursuing an injury claim from a recent accident. Why? Because any amount of compensation gained in the case is more likely to overcompensate by far any raise in rates. Also rates may rise because of how the stock or bond market is doing overall, the local or national state of the economy, etc. The factors are so numerous and variable that it makes no sense to forego a claim because of the fear of a rate hike. Should you select your carrier based on rates? This is a dangerous method of choosing a carrier since there is no relationship between insurance costs and how any carrier handles claims. The catchy advertising promising financial protection, compassion and yes lower rates than quoted elsewhere by competitors does not predict the quality of the claim experience. The State Farm jingle---"Like a Good Neighbor---State Farm is there " should be "Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there unless you have a claim against us and then we will fight you with every legal tool at our disposal." Never use price as the sole guide in selecting your carrier or let a catchy jingle influence your choice of If you are injured in an auto collision, you will need an experienced lawyer. **Call me. I 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
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