

WRONGFUL DEATH *and* MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

MEDICAL ERROR IS ONE OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE U.S.

OVER 250,000 DEATHS
ARE CAUSED BY MEDICAL ERROR EVERY YEAR





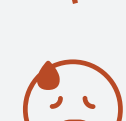

When a medical professional fails to provide a patient with care that meets the standards of the field and the patient suffers serious harm, that error can be considered medical malpractice.



When medical malpractice leads to a patient's death, the loved ones of the deceased have the right to file a wrongful death claim for damages.

WHAT ARE *DAMAGES*?

Damages in a wrongful death claim might include...

-  Medical expenses
-  Funeral and burial costs
-  Compensation for grief or mental suffering
-  Loss of income, if survivors are dependent on income of the deceased.

EXAMPLES OF *MEDICAL MALPRACTICE*

Misdiagnosis

Surgical Errors

Bedsores, or
Pressure Ulcers

Hospital Acquired
Infections

Birth Injuries

Medication-related
Errors

Failure to Identify a Patient's Risk for Stroke

ILLINOIS WRONGFUL DEATH *CONSIDERATIONS*

Each state has its own set of laws governing wrongful death lawsuits. In Illinois,



- ✓ Claims can be filed by spouses, children and "next of kin," which means that adopted children and adopting parents might also be eligible to file a claim.
- ✓ A claim should be filed within two years from the time of the patient's death.



WHO IS AT FAULT FOR A *PATIENT'S DEATH*?

Each case is unique, and it's incredibly difficult to determine fault without a thorough investigation of the evidence. The following parties and entities could potentially be responsible for a patient's death...

- A medical professional, such as a doctor or nurse
- A hospital or facility
- The manufacturer of a faulty device or drug.

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Sources

<https://hub.jhu.edu/2016/05/03/medical-errors-third-leading-cause-of-death/>

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/primers/primer/3>