

Article Heading:

Filing an Ohio Birth Injury Claim Stemming from Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy

Keyword-Rich Content:

You should consult with a Cleveland birth injury attorney if your child suffered serious or fatal injuries from hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy (HIE). You may be entitled to compensation through an Ohio birth injury claim.

An Overview of Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy

HIE is a condition in which a newborn doesn't receive enough oxygen or blood flow to the whole brain. In just minutes, a lack of oxygen can cause brain cells to die. If the condition isn't fatal, it may lead to permanent brain damage.

Long-term damage to the brain can result in developmental delays, cerebral palsy, learning impairments and other disabling complications. The child can face lifelong medical care and treatment.

Causes of Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy

HIE in newborns is caused by complications during labor and delivery. Some of these are preventable and may lead to a medical professional being held liable through an Ohio birth injury claim.

Some of the causes of HIE may include:

- **hypotension;**
- **umbilical cord complications;**
- **uterine rupture;**
- **prolonged delivery;** and
- **delay in C-section.**

Any complication in which there is a lack of blood flow or oxygen to the brain can lead to HIE.

Some of these causes may be a result of medical negligence. When a healthcare professional fails to act in a safe manner or improperly performs a procedure, it could lead to you seeking help from a Cleveland birth injury attorney.

Symptoms of Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy

In a newborn, some of the symptoms of HIE may include:

- **extreme lethargy;**
- **seizures;**
- **no response to light;**
- **breathing difficulties;** and
- **coma.**

Diagnosing HIE as quickly as possible is important. This can be done through an echocardiogram, CT scan, electrocardiogram or an MRI scan.

Treatment will depend on the severity of damage to the brain and whether there are other complications. Long-term treatment will depend on the extent of brain damage. A child could end up requiring a lifetime of medical care and services.

Damages Available in an Ohio Birth Injury Claim

If it can be established that medical negligence was the cause of your child's injuries, then you may be able to file an Ohio birth injury claim. You could be entitled to damages that address not only your current medical expenses, but also future ones.

If your child will require special educational services or rehabilitation, these costs may be included in your damages. You could also be entitled to damages that address pain and suffering, mental anguish, and reduced quality of life.

If HIE led to fatal injuries, then damages may be available that cover your medical bills, along with burial and funeral expenses. A Cleveland birth injury attorney will carefully consider all of the financial, physical and emotional losses that you and your child have suffered.

Help from a Cleveland Birth Injury Attorney

Proving medical negligence will require experienced, knowledgeable help. A Cleveland birth injury attorney may be able to help collect the evidence you will need in order to prove liability.

Evidence can include your child's medical records (including fetal monitor strips), doctor's notations, medical bills, test results and any other documentation related to your child's injuries. An attorney may also use testimony from a medical expert and whatever resources needed to fight for your [Ohio birth injury claim](#).

Because there is a statute of limitations during which you can proceed with this type of claim, you don't want to delay in seeking legal counsel. To learn what your rights are and how you can protect the best interests of your child, contact a [Cleveland birth injury attorney](#) as soon as possible.