

Medical Malpractice Claims and Awards

One of the hardest aspects of filing a [medical malpractice claim](#) is determining how much to seek in awards. It's important to remember that the point of these lawsuits is to provide just compensation, not to pile on the doctor and to make the claimant fabulously wealthy. A jury has the option of awarding the entire amount or a part of it and, in some cases, the claim doesn't go to court: The parties settle outside of court for a lesser amount.

What about Legal Fees?

Lawyers do need to get paid. If you work with a [medical malpractice lawyer](#) that works on contingency, you don't have to pay them upfront. This allows you to pursue your case all the way through the trial and, if you don't win, you don't end up paying the lawyer at all. If you do win, the legal fees will be deducted from the award. This is one of the most popular ways to pursue these claims because of the low risk for the claimant.

How Much Do I Sue For?

This will be something your attorney will work out with you as you're putting your case together. They can help you arrive at a figure, but most medical malpractice claims seek monetary compensation for at least the following:

- The medical expenses incurred
- Lost wages from the time spent convalescing
- The pain and suffering of the patient

There may be other aspects of your case for which the lawyer will recommend adding to the award sought from the jury. It simply depends upon the particulars of your case and how much you were harmed by the physician.

Why Does this Law Exist?

Unfortunately, the media does a good job of making medical malpractice claims look frivolous. Email forwards and urban legends make these claims look like get rich quick schemes.

In reality, doctors are in a position where negligence on their part can be devastating to their patients. This is why there is malpractice law and why clients have the option of seeking compensation. Without these laws, patients may find themselves in a situation where they're injured, unable to work and faced with huge medical bills, even though they were harmed by the procedures that they're being billed for.

Medical malpractice laws are there so that you, the patient, have a way of asserting your rights.
Medical malpractice lawyers are there to help you do it effectively in court.