

Goza & Honnold Newsletter

So far, 2018 has been an exciting and productive year for Goza & Honnold. In this newsletter, we will update you on some of our current case work and introduce you to our new office location. As always, we are grateful for your referrals and support, and we look forward to working with you on additional cases in the future.

Goza & Honnold Secures \$920,000 Verdict in KS Malpractice Case

We recently obtained a \$920,000 verdict for a client in a Johnson County medical malpractice case involving complications from hip surgery. Brad Honnold tried this case on behalf of a 58-year-old woman who had a total hip replacement by a local orthopedic surgeon. After surgery, our client developed a hematoma and seroma that went untreated. The mass continued to expand for several months, until 6 pounds of fluid needed to be drained from her hip.

Unfortunately, because of the delay in treatment, our client developed a cavernous wound in her leg that required multiple surgeries and left her disabled and in chronic pain. The jury reached a verdict in favor of our client after a six-day trial.

Our firm works on a variety of medical malpractice cases in the Kansas City area, throughout Missouri and Kansas, and nationally.



Birth Injuries and Obstetrical Malpractice Cases

A significant portion of our practice is dedicated to obstetrical malpractice and birth injury cases. The birth of a child is an amazing and joyous event. However, every parent's worst fear is a newborn suffering an injury at birth that was preventable with appropriate care.

We understand that this is an extremely difficult and emotional time for families. We help guide families through the legal process so they can focus on the most important thing, the care of their children.



Goza & Honnold's medical malpractice trial attorneys have experience handling all types of birth injury cases, including:

- Improper handling of preterm labor
- Delivery injuries due to forceps
- Lack of oxygen — hypoxia and ischemia during labor
- Shoulder dystocia and other types of nerve damage
- Erb's palsy
- Cerebral palsy and other forms of neurologic or brain damage
- Complications from cesarean sections (C-sections) and vaginal deliveries, including bruises, broken bones, and fractures
- Failure to diagnose Group B strep and other infections
- Failure to properly interpret fetal heart rate monitor strips and resulting fetal distress, delivery complications, permanent brain or other neurologic injury
- Failure to properly watch newborns in the nursery or ICU

Common Procedures With Disastrous Results:

Goza & Honnold litigates numerous malpractice cases involving common medical procedures, like gluteal injections, medication administration, and IV infiltration. Despite how prevalent these procedures are in everyday practice, patients still can be at risk for serious and irreparable injuries.

Gluteal Injections

You might think little could go wrong during a simple injection in the backside. While the "dorsogluteal" site injection has been used for many years, there is substantial question about whether it is the safest site for medications. The sciatic nerve runs through this area and can be injured by direct trauma or chemical irritation.



Our firm recently successfully represented a client who suffered severe and permanent nerve injury as a result of an intra-muscular gluteal injection of an antibiotic. These injections are common in primary care settings, and it is extremely important for nurses to be aware of the risks and to use appropriate techniques to protect patients from serious nerve injuries.

Medication Administration

The old adage, "Take two, and you'll feel better in the morning," doesn't always prove true. Drug errors and drug-related injuries are serious medical mistakes. Some experts estimate that as many as 1,000 preventable medication errors occur in U.S. hospitals every day, often resulting in serious and potentially fatal complications.

There are many opportunities for something to go wrong when a medication order travels from a physician to a pharmacist, then to an administering nurse.



IV Infiltration

IV administration is so commonplace that it is easy to forget about its potential for harm. Infiltration occurs when fluid is infused into tissue surrounding the IV site. Generally speaking, a compress of some sort can help by increasing circulation and absorbing the infiltrate. Extravasation occurs when a vesicant — a chemical or medicine that can cause burns or blistering — or chemotherapeutic drug accidentally infiltrates the IV site. This can result in blistering, pain, and tissue sloughing.

Appropriate nurse vigilance, monitoring, and response are vital to preventing potential permanent injury from infiltration/extravasation. We have seen a number of these cases over the years, some of which involved debilitating injuries.

Goza & Honnold has handled numerous negligence cases involving these kinds of procedures. Even common procedures require provider vigilance.



Prescription Opioids

In addition to our malpractice cases, we continue to work on cases involving dangerous prescription drugs and medical devices. Currently, that includes a large focus on the prescription opioid crisis that has swept across the United States, causing widespread harm, including staggering levels of death, drug addiction, and disability.

To date, numerous state and local governments and hospital systems have filed lawsuits against the companies that make and distribute prescription opioids, primarily seeking to recover the economic losses they have sustained. This litigation is an admirable effort to curtail opioid abuse. However, it does little to compensate the individuals and families who have been directly affected by the opioid crisis.

Our firm is reviewing potential claims on behalf of individuals and families who have the following injuries related to prescription opioid use:

- Death or hospitalization due to overdose or overprescribing
- Addiction requiring inpatient rehabilitation
- Improper or excessive prescribing by doctors or pharmacies



Goza & Honnold Moves to Overland Park

At the end of May, our firm moved to a new location in Overland Park. Throughout the first part of June, we were busy settling into our new office, located at the corner of 95th Street and Nall Avenue. We invite you to stop by when you have a chance.



*Goza & Honnold thanks you for entrusting your cases to us.
Feel free to contact us about helping you with additional case work.*