

Medical Malpractice

What is it?

Medical Malpractice is defined as a negligent act or omission by a medical professional that results in injury to the patient, or their family. This occurs when a medical professional's actions doesn't meet the accepted standard of care expected from such a medical professional or institution.

The most common forms of such actionable negligence includes, misdiagnosis, treatment not given timeously, appropriate treatment that is not given at all, pressure ulcers, hospital acquired infections, etc.

It should also be noted that “injury” also includes the psychological trauma and distress caused to those around the patient by the sub standard care given. Consider where a patient suffers pain, complications or death because of sub standard medical care and his suffering or death is witnessed by his family. In these circumstances the family members can also hold the medical professionals responsible for the trauma that they sustained.

If you have been a victim of such negligence, it is extremely important that you contact a legal professional to establish what your options are. There are a number of time limitations regarding the institution of legal and complaint procedures that most South Africans are not aware of and may bar you from taking action at a later date.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!