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# Texas Law Alert

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## Wrongful Death Lawsuits Help Surviving Family Members

What do the following accident and injury scenarios have in common?

- Automobile Driver Collides with a Pedestrian
- Medical Doctor Botches a Surgery
- Poorly Designed SUV Rolls Over on the Interstate
- Customer Is Assaulted in a Poorly Lit Parking Lot

The answer is that any one of these can result in a fatal injury for the victim due to someone else's negligence. When someone dies as a result of another party's negligence, legally it is known as a "wrongful death."

Obviously, losing a family member can be emotionally devastating. But when the death is related to carelessness on the part of another person, then the loss becomes much harder to accept. The death of a person has an IMMEDIATE impact on the family members left behind. In an instant, lives are changed forever. That's why the law provides a legal remedy for surviving family members in the

form of a wrongful death claim. If successful, the family members may be rewarded compensation for:

- Medical Expenses
- Funeral Expenses
- Loss of Future Wages
- Mental Suffering

It is important to remember that just because a person dies in an

accident, the death may not be "wrongful." Instead, a wrongful death suit is valid only where someone else causes the person's death through a wrongful act, neglect, or carelessness. In other words, a suit for a wrongful death should be filed only if the death is

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### Let Us Help You

The last thing most people think of after the death of a family member is calling a lawyer, but there are many important reasons to do so. First, we can help you determine if you have a wrongful death claim at all. And, the sooner you contact our firm, the sooner we can work to preserve valuable evidence that will help you win your case.

We can help you negotiate the often complex legal world and arrange for the necessary expert witnesses and others essential to proving your claim. We will work out an arrangement that means you do not have to pay for this expert advice and assistance by the hour.

Please call us if you ever have any questions on these issues. Remember, the better your case, the more likely that an insurance company representative will contact you offering a fraction of what you deserve.

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# Painkillers Can Be Deadly



According to the Food and Drug Administration, four out of the six most deadly prescription medications given to Americans are members of a class of powerful painkillers known as opioids.

Opioids are related to opium, long known for its painkilling effects. Modern opioids, however, are up to 100 times more potent and are therefore relatively much more dangerous. Although all of these drugs, which include oxycodone (also known as OxiContin), fentanyl, morphine, and methadone, have legitimate medical uses, they also have all proven to be very deadly.

As powerful painkillers, these drugs are used to treat those suffer-

ing from great pain, including patients recovering from surgery and those with severe long-term pain, such as some cancer patients.

However, opioids are often overprescribed by doctors, leading to patient addiction. Even if properly prescribed, accidental misuse of these drugs is common and can result in a deadly overdose.

Overuse of or overdosing on any of these drugs can cause respiratory arrest or respiratory depression, both of which can lead to death. The drugs also have other side effects, which can get worse the longer their use is continued.

If you have used these opioids or someone you know has died or suffered some other bad outcome from using them, contact us. You may be eligible to file a lawsuit and be compensated for your loss.

## Wrongful Death

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caused by the intentional acts or negligence of someone else.

While nothing can replace a lost loved one, a successful wrongful death lawsuit can provide some level of comfort and assurance in the face of uncertainty and grief. No one would trade the life of a family member for a check, no matter how large. However, there are some kinds of losses the law cannot fix, such as death. The damages that can be recovered in a wrongful death suit are intended to make the loss more bearable by compensating the family.

A wrongful death lawsuit is complex, so you need our firm on your side to help you. And remember: If a family waits too long to file a wrongful death suit it may lose the right to file suit at all.

*Actual resolution of legal issues depends upon many factors, including variations of facts and Texas law. This newsletter is not intended to provide legal advice on specific subjects, but rather to provide insight into legal developments and issues. The reader should always consult with legal counsel before taking action on matters covered by this newsletter.*

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