



Law Offices of GARY E. ROSENBERG, P.C.

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Shorter shifts haven't reduced medical errors in hospitals

Allowing doctors shorter shifts and time to sleep seems like a no-brainer when it comes to preventing medical errors in hospitals. Residents who pull 30-hour shifts become fatigued—physically and mentally. In controlled studies, doctors working 30-hour shifts made 36 percent more major medical errors than those working 16-hour shifts. Since 2003, residents have been limited to 80 hours of work per week, and in July 2011, rules detailing shift-length restrictions and rest-period requirements came into effect.

So why hasn't the incidence of medical errors fallen in the wake of these changes?

It's a classic case of plugging up one leak in a dam only to see several others spring in its place. A recent article in the *New York Times* said shorter shifts lead to better-rested doctors, but result in more patient handoffs. When a patient sees multiple doctors, the chance of miscommunication, misdiagnosis, and medical errors increases.

Experts also cite poor enforcement of new regulations, lack of communication, and outdated modes of communication, such as handwritten notes, as trouble areas that can result in medical errors and, ultimately, patient injury or death.



Gary says:

From permanent resident to American citizen

Being an American isn't just about grasping the spirit of what makes this nation a great country. There is a very strict process that must be observed.

The most common way to get a permanent residence card (green card) is to be sponsored through family, work, or through refugee or asylum status. To be considered for naturalization (citizenship), candidates must be at least 18 years of age; a permanent resident for five years (or three years if married to and living with a U.S. citizen); able to speak, read, and write simple English; and able to pass a test on U.S. government and history.

There are many scams that target those applying for naturalization. To help avoid these scams, navigate the process, and to be sure that everything is filed correctly, call our office for assistance.

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We'll come to your home or hospital.
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- No recovery, no fee.
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- Hablamos Español

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Referrals

Our practice continues to grow through referrals from our clients and friends. If you know someone who has been seriously injured or is buying or selling a house, co-op, condo, or commercial building, we hope you will recommend us.

Thank you.

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Are you signing away your child's rights when they go on a field trip?

Spring fever affects students and teachers alike, and it's a popular time for field trips. These trips require parents or guardians to sign a liability-release form. Parents may briefly wonder if they are truly signing away their child's rights but sign anyway, as it's required for participation.

According to the Web site TotsnTorts.com, "The Iowa Supreme Court noted that a majority of states who have examined the issues have concluded that a parent's pre-injury waiver of her child's cause of action is a violation of public policy."

A parent cannot sign a waiver that states that their child has no right to seek recovery. If a child is injured, the child can seek recovery, even if a parent has signed away their own right to make a claim. In the case of death, the child's estate can sue to recover for injuries and damages, even when a parent has signed away their own right to do so.

If your child was injured on a school field trip due to negligence, don't assume you have no legal recourse if you signed a form or waiver. Call us to discuss your child's rights.

If a child is injured, the child can seek recovery, even if a parent has signed away their own right to make a claim.



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