# **Surgical Errors & Medical Malpractice:** What Should You Know?

Surgical errors are not automatically deemed to be a result of medical malpractice. Malpractice occurs when sub-standard treatment results in harm to a patient.

ightarrow What is the "Medical Standard of Care?"

The "medical standard of care" is defined as the level and type of care that a reasonably competent health care professional would have provided under the circumstances that led to the alleged malpractice.



#### $\rightarrow$ Why Do Surgical Errors Occur?

Many surgical errors result from poor pre-surgery planning or failure to properly communicate possible risks associated with a procedure. If a doctor misidentifies a patient or misreads medications, it can lead to a damaging or even fatal surgical outcome. If a surgical team does not have adequate information about a patient's health history, they may not be able to sufficiently evaluate the risks of the proposed surgery.

### ightarrow When is a Surgical Error Considered Medical Malpractice?

Surgical errors can result in medical malpractice claims if the surgeon's performance falls below the accepted "medical standard of care" and a patient is injured as a result.

#### $\rightarrow$ What Are My Rights?

As a victim of surgical medical malpractice, you have the right to seek compensation for damages. Compensation may include medical expenses, loss of earning potential, and any pain or suffering endured from the surgical error.



## **Talk To An Expert**

The medical malpractice attorneys at Miller & Wagner are here to help you evaluate your claim. For more information, contact us today.



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