



# Insider's Legal Guide

Vehicle Accidents

Medical Malpractice

Daycare Abuse

Nursing Home Negligence

Birth Injury

Product Liability



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## Cerebral Palsy Caused by Time of Birth?

### Study finds a greater risk of CP during night births

A new study by the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology has found a direct correlation between babies born at night and cerebral palsy.

After examining the medical information of two million births in California hospitals over the course of 14 years, researchers found that children were 22 percent more likely to develop cerebral palsy between the hours of 10 p.m. and 4 a.m.

Cerebral palsy is an umbrella term used to describe brain disorders that negatively affect a person's coordination and bodily movements. It is most often caused by lack of oxygen to the brain before, during and shortly after the birthing process.

The questions we find ourselves asking are why at night? Why such an increase in cerebral palsy during a specific time period of the day?

Although the authors of the study could not definitively pinpoint the exact cause of this increase, it is their educated opinion that poor staffing and medical errors during these late hours are the reason for such a marked increase in cases of cerebral palsy.

Of course, there are a myriad of causes for cerebral palsy, but what some may not know is many instances of CP are ultimately caused by medical negligence or malpractice. The results of this study may come as a surprise to many, but to an experienced cerebral palsy lawyer, it actually makes sense. If hospitals already have issues



with staff shortages and fatigued workers, it only stands that these problems would be magnified late at night.

The fact is; caring for a child with cerebral palsy is incredibly expensive. If it was caused by medical malpractice, your child may be eligible for compensation. In the event that you suspect your child's CP could have been prevented, you owe it to them to contact us today for their free case evaluation.

February is National Special Needs Awareness Month. If you would like to learn more about cerebral palsy, visit [www.cerebral-palsy-information.com](http://www.cerebral-palsy-information.com). There, you will find a vast library of informative blogs and videos. You can also request Jeff's book, [The Epidemic of Birth Injuries Caused by Medical Mistakes & Understanding Your Rights](#).

If you would like to volunteer to help others who suffer from CP, contact your local chapter of United Cerebral Palsy - a national non-profit in support of CP.



## The Red Flags of Elder Abuse



One of the worst things about an abusive situation is the abused is sometimes shamed into hiding it. This means it can go on for long periods of time, even years, before it's discovered. To avoid this, you have to learn to see the signs of someone being abused. In the case of nursing home mistreatment, this can be difficult. You're dealing with adults, not children, so they may be ashamed of having been victimized, which can make it hard to find out that someone is taking advantage of them.

If you see bruises on the arms, shoulders and neck, it can be a sign that someone is being shoved around or deliberately harmed. Any truly suspicious injuries, such as burns and cuts, are always warning signs. If it's too difficult to get the possible victim to open up about it or to even let you take a closer look, let their doctor know about your suspicions. Doctors can look for signs of abuse when they're conducting normal examinations. It's generally pretty easy for them to determine whether an injury is something routine and expected or something that doesn't seem right at all.

Some of the signs of elderly neglect are more psychological in their nature. For instance, some abused individuals will retreat into themselves. Loneliness is a problem for many elderly people in general, as many of their friends are gone and there are few people left from their early lives. When it's compounded by someone who makes them feel isolated or who mistreats them, it can become a very serious problem. Depression is also a frequent sign of abuse, and a completely understandable one. Watch out for sudden changes in a loved one's personality; it's usually not a good sign.

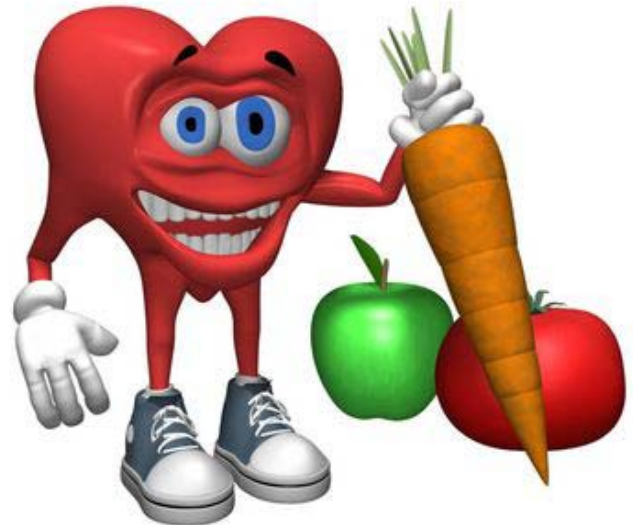
A nursing home abuse attorney can help you to seek compensation from the facility that was responsible for the abuse. In the case of home care, you may also have options to sue. Get your loved one out of harm's way. After this is taken care of, consult with an attorney. Rasansky Law Firm available to discuss your situation and review the possibility of a case.

## Tips for Your Ticker

Recognizing cardiovascular disease as the number one cause of death in the U.S., the president and the American Heart Association has observed February as American Heart Health Month since 1963.

Understanding the threat heart disease poses is important to overall health. Here are some tips for a healthier ticker.

- 1. Quit smoking!** Your heart's health is yet another compelling reason to drop the habit. Cigarettes and tobacco wreak havoc on your heart and the rest of your health. In fact, smokers have twice the heart attack risk as non-smokers.
- 2. Drop the weight!** Studies have shown that carrying excess body fat causes a host of adverse effects on the body including high blood pressure, arterial inflammation, high cholesterol – the list goes on.
- 3. Eat for health.** As most know, eating a healthy diet is key for overall health and the heart is no different. Try sticking to foods that are low in fat, cholesterol and salt.
- 4. Exercise! Exercise! Exercise!** Regular exercise does infinite wonders for your cardiovascular health. Physical activity can help you to control your bodyweight, lower blood pressure, cholesterol risk of diabetes and other heart disease risks. In addition, exercise has also been shown to reduce stress, another enemy of heart health.
- 5. Get screened!** As you get older, it's important to see your doctor for regular blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes screenings. It's essential to know your risk factors early so you can take the necessary steps to correct a problem before it becomes life threatening.



# Fountain Girl's Case is No Laughing Matter

An absurd case is once again damaging a profession built to protect individuals

If you have been online or have watched TV lately, you have more than likely saw the video of a young woman falling face first into a fountain while texting. The video went viral over night; it should have, it was funny!

Well guess what? The young lady isn't laughing and, along with her lawyer, has decided to make a mockery of our justice system by attempting to sue the mall and its security guards.

That's right, Cathy Cruz Merrero, better known as Fountain Girl, is suing and has even found an attorney willing to take her case.

A seemingly innocent funny video has now turned into a ludicrous case that will undoubtedly become a springboard to discredit my profession.

I am no longer laughing. I am furious.

Fountain Girl has nobody to blame but herself. In the video, she is clearly at fault. She was so engrossed in her text message that she couldn't even look down and notice where she was. It is not the mall's fault that she wasn't paying attention, and as an employee of the mall, she knew there was a fountain there.

She is upset because security didn't try and help her after she *almost* hurt herself. Watch the video. Does it even appear to be time enough to help her? She was up and out of that fountain faster than a cat that has fallen in a swimming pool.

Another thing – you can't even recognize her in the video. It is far too grainy to recognize a face. There is a good chance that if she would have stepped back from the situation and laughed along with the rest of the world, nobody would have ever known who Fountain Girl was and left it at that.

Instead, Marrero has decided to do the unthinkable and sue because of her embarrassment. She and her lawyer are doing immense damage to the legal system. This is where we should *all* stop laughing.



You see, I spend every single day fighting for individuals who truly rely on the legal system for protection. I, along with my colleagues, represent victims every day who have been injured by negligent doctors and nurses. Children who will spend their entire lives suffering the effects of Cerebral Palsy because of a preventable birth injury. Comforting and fighting for families that are torn apart and grieving because they lost a loved one to a drunk driver or other negligent action. When you look at the cases I do on a daily basis, you begin to see the gravity of the situation.

The fact is, cases like this are not a joke; not just a pockmark on my profession, but also a slap in the face of those victims who truly need legal recourse. I am not talking about people who are out to make a quick buck or who are embarrassed by their own actions. I am talking about real life victims of negligence and a corrupt insurance industry set up to deny everything.

Cases like Fountain Girl's do a disservice to the whole legal system and society as a whole. Read any blog or watch any show discussing this case and you are bound to hear the usual comments and criticisms about the legal industry.

Sadly, the real cases and victims almost never make the news. Nobody wants to hear about the good our profession does for society. They don't want to hear about the safety regulations created or the laws enacted to protect consumers due to landmark cases. Why? Because it is not easy to make a joke about the baby that was torn from a young family due to a drop side crib malfunctioning and strangling them to death.

At the end of the day, this case will more than likely never be filed, and if it is, I am confident it will be thrown out. Unfortunately the damage is already done. The case of Fountain Girl has already given the opposition the ammunition it needs. I just hope people realize this woman and her lawyer do not speak for an entire profession.

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**The Insider's Legal Guide Series of Frequently Asked Questions** are expert videos featuring award winning attorney, Jeff Rasansky, answering YOUR most frequent questions regarding a number of legal and consumer safety questions. It is our hope that these videos will become a quick reference for your most pressing questions and concerns. Visit [www.InsidersLegalGuide.com/Videos](http://www.InsidersLegalGuide.com/Videos) to have your questions answered today!

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