

ACCIDENT VICTIMS BEWARE

IN THE INSTANCES set forth in this guide, lawyers are legally forbidden from soliciting victims of accidents to recruit them as clients. Doing so can result in criminal prosecution and disbarment of any attorney who takes part in these unethical practices. These lawyers are infamously referred to as “ambulance chasers” for taking advantage of accident victims in their time of need. This guide will help you stay one step ahead of these scammers and save you from making a mistake that could cost you the justice you seek in a lawsuit for compensation for injuries that could last a lifetime.

Lawyers and doctors are sometimes “in bed” with each other in soliciting accident victims. The scammers used by these lawyers and doctors to recruit unsuspecting victims are called RUNNERS. Runners are good at what they do. Most victims never realize that they were tricked into retaining a lawyer or doctor.

Even worse, when the doctors and lawyers involved in scams like this are caught, it hurts the victim’s case. An injured person’s credibility should never be questioned because of dealings with a “dirty” doctor and/or lawyer. Regardless of whether or not they are caught, most of these “dirty” doctors and lawyers are known to the insurance companies and judges. **As a result, victims represented by them appear suspicious and may be offered less money.**

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This guide can save you from making a mistake
that could cost you **THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS.**



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HOW THE SCAM WORKS:

These scams often have three players: **the runner, the doctor (or clinic),** and, of course, **the attorney.** The runner approaches clients at accident sites, at the hospital, and after they leave the hospital. "Dirty" doctors and lawyers typically pay a "finder's fee" for each accident victim a runner gets them. What the unsuspecting victim doesn't know is that the lawyer usually subtracts this fee, which could be thousands of dollars, as well as other monies from the settlement proceeds at the end of the case. They justify the deductions by claiming the money was owed to the medical facility. However, in reality, these charges are bogus. They are either inflated or nonessential and can be easily contested by an honest lawyer.

HOW TO SPOT A RUNNER:

SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT:

Runners use police scanners to rush to accident scenes and approach victims after their accidents. Tow truck drivers often play this role, as do convenient "witnesses" that seemingly appear from nowhere and offer to help. The best indicator that you're dealing with a runner and not a friendly stranger will be an insistence that you, the victim, go to a specific clinic and/or lawyer.

THE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM:

Runners loiter in emergency waiting rooms, keeping an eye out for likely accident victims to "pitch." One of their best known tactics is to

pose as a concerned relative or friend of a patient who is already being treated inside the hospital. After becoming friendly, the runner will tell the victim that he or she has a great lawyer and/or doctor to refer them to. The hope is that the victim will accept the referral and go to that doctor/lawyer. **Always be suspicious of a stranger recommending a lawyer or doctor to you at a hospital.**

AFTER LEAVING THE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM:

Runners bribe hospital personnel to get confidential documents – namely personal medical files and contact information for accident victims. They then call the victims at their homes and use a variety of methods to solicit them, including the impersonation of concerned doctors or hospital staff. During their conversation, they will insist that the victim go to a specific clinic for follow-up testing. Often they will claim this clinic is a private facility affiliated with the hospital the victim has already been to. From there, the clinic will push the victim toward a specific lawyer. At the end of the case, that attorney will show his gratitude to the facility by not contesting bogus bills that the victim should not be responsible for.

Be suspicious of any call you receive after leaving the hospital. If you are unsure, **call the hospital's administration office and ask.**

ALREADY BEEN SCAMMED?

If you or someone you know has been solicited by a runner and would like to consult with us, please feel free to call us at anytime. We can replace these crooked lawyers at no cost to you. We can also make sure you are not held responsible for bogus bills from the medical facilities. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose by switching to an honest lawyer. When an honest lawyer fires a "dirty" lawyer, the victim will still receive the same portion of the entire award regardless of the firing and regardless of the amount of attorneys that have worked on your case. The Law Offices of Michael S. Lamonsoff, PLLC stands ready, willing, and able to fire these attorneys and aggressively pursue a successful and prosperous award for you.

Remember, an injury victim will only have one chance to be compensated for injuries that may last a lifetime. He or she should be represented by a reputable attorney who is trustworthy, competent, and will aggressively fight for his or her rights.



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