

WHO TAKES THE FALL? ACCIDENTS IN A PUBLIC PLACE

Winter brings with it dangerous conditions for pedestrians. We've answered some common questions about accidents in a public place.

WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU TRIP, SLIP OR FALL IN A PUBLIC PLACE?

Remember the Location!

It is extremely important to be able to identify precisely where the accident happened. You should ensure that you have some way of pointing out the accident scene to your solicitor and any engineer retained by them to inspect the scene.

SHOULD YOU TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS?

Yes! - protect all evidence

At the very earliest opportunity following an accident, you should take photographs of the scene. This is particularly important if you slip on a wet surface such as spilt milk in a shop.

SHOULD YOU APPROACH WITNESSES WHO MAY HAVE SEEN THE ACCIDENT?

Yes! - get details of all witnesses.

If there were any witnesses to the accident, be sure to obtain their names, addresses and telephone numbers.

WHAT OTHER STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN AT AN EARLY STAGE?

Write down what happened.

It is most important that you write down in the fullest detail how the accident happened and what injuries you suffered. You should set out the time, date and mechanics of the accident.

You should also write down who you believe is responsible and why.

It is important that you complete this statement at the earliest date - you should include as much detail as you can remember, no matter how trivial. You have no way of knowing at an early stage what will prove to be important as your case progresses.

IF YOU FALL IN A SHOP SHOULD YOU REPORT IT?

Yes!

The fall should immediately be reported to a staff member or the manager. You should also ensure to take their name. This may become very important and will prevent a shop from arguing that the accident did not occur on their premises.

IF YOU HAVE SUFFERED INJURIES WHAT SHOULD YOU DO TO ASSIST IN YOUR LEGAL CASE?

Record Your Injuries.

After the accident - even if it has only been a minor one - you should always see your doctor for a check up.

This is important as a failure to attend your doctor at an early stage may cause difficulty later on. Make sure you tell your doctor that you were involved in an accident and detail all your injuries, both physical and psychological, no matter how trivial they may seem to you at the time. Make sure that the doctor makes a note of these details.

It is very difficult to remember some months or years after the accident how you felt in the "early days." Buy a diary and keep a record of present symptoms and from then on, record your condition on a regular basis. You should also keep a note of all your medical examinations, when you went, what was said and any medical opinions offered.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tel: 052- 612 43 44

Address: Jervis House,
Parnell Street,
Clonmel,
Co Tipperary

Email: info@lynchsolicitors.ie

Website: www.lynchsolicitors.ie



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