

VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Each year there are millions of children and adults who are vaccinated. These vaccines are designed to prevent illness and since their inception, vaccines have been successful in decreasing and, in some cases, even eliminating the very disease for which people are vaccinated. Although adults are vaccinated for tetanus, flu, etc. the majority of vaccine recipients are young children. In fact, by the time the average child is five years of age, they may have received as many as 37 vaccines.

Although vaccines work well the majority of the time, they do not come without risks. Most drugs have side effects and vaccines are no different. Some people have adverse reactions to the vaccine and can be seriously injured or even die. In those unfortunate situations, there is a program developed to help compensate victims and families for these injuries and deaths called the Vaccine Compensation Program.

The program was developed in the late 1980s. The program is funded by pharmaceutical companies that pay money for each vaccine administered. This money is then administered through the US Court of Claims in Washington, D.C. Victims who are injured or have a family member who may have died from a vaccine can file a claim for damages.

Generally, there is no age limit to the person who may file a claim. However, the time limit in order to file that claim is very stringent. Usually, if the vaccine you are claiming caused the injury was administered less than 36 months ago you have time to file a claim. If your claim is not filed within the time allotted, you will not be entitled to compensation by the program.

Injuries are categorized as either table injuries or non-table injuries. A table injury references a specific vaccine with a specific reaction within a set amount of time. If you can establish those criteria you have proven your case and then must prove your damages. For non-table injury cases, you must prove, generally through a medical expert, that your injury was caused by the vaccine. In the event of death, your damages are limited to a maximum amount of \$250,000.

Doctors and health care providers are required to report vaccine injuries through the Vaccine Adverse Effects Reporting System (VAERS). Unfortunately, many injuries are not immediately connected to the vaccine which complicates the matter further.

The claim process is very detailed and complicated. It is highly recommended that you hire an attorney experienced in this technical area of law. In fact, the law requires that the attorneys that represent victims and families of adverse reactions to vaccines must be licensed in the US Court of Claims. If you have concerns about yourself, a friend or a family member who may have been injured or may have died from a vaccine please immediately contact Attorney Mark L. Krueger at 1-866-455-2993 or e-mail him at mark@kh-law.net.