

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE A SLIP & FALL CASE



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Bad Luck or Negligence? Understanding Slip and Fall Accidents



When walking on city sidewalks, through government property, or in commercial buildings, you don't expect to fall. When it happens, these incidents can cause severe and painful injuries, which may have life changing implications.

Dangerous premises cases—most often called “slip and fall” cases—can happen because of carelessness or bad coincidence, but often they're caused by a property owner's negligence. “Slip and fall” is a personal injury term used to describe a situation in which a person injures himself or herself by slipping or tripping while on someone else's property.

Not all situations involve actually hitting the ground, but injuries from turning or twisting can be just as severe.

If you or a loved one is injured in a slip and fall accident, it's important to contact a St. Louis slip and fall injury lawyer immediately.

What to do after Your Slip & Fall Accident



After we fall, it is common to be embarrassed and want to get up and out of the area as quickly as possible. A few quick actions can help protect your rights later on:

- Gather contact information for any people who may have witnessed your accident. If you have someone with you who can do this while you get medical attention, it will be helpful later;
- A picture is worth a thousand words. Use your phone's camera to photograph or identify what caused you to fall;
- Seek medical treatment for your injuries immediately, and get checked out at an Urgent Care if you think you might have been injured. Some injuries don't show up right away, and your health is most important;
- Contact a personal injury trial lawyer that understands slip and fall cases. It is crucial to work quickly after an incident, as property owners may attempt to repair the dangerous condition while their insurance company tries to rush you into accepting an unfair settlement.

Property Owner Liability



A common misconception about slip and fall injuries is that the property owner is always liable. This is not true. One key question to ask is, “Could the accident have been prevented?” If the property owner couldn't have known about the hazard and prevented it, fixed it, or warned of it, then a lawsuit against the owner will fail.

A Slip & Fall Case Example

Often, the property owner could have known about the hazard. For example, in early 2015 we represented a client who fell inside a casino. He tripped on the edge of a floor tile that bordered a carpeted area, and the carpet had worn down over time. The casino claimed no knowledge of this hazard or any previous complaints about it. We discovered that another woman had stumbled in the same area before our client and reported to casino officials that the carpet was dangerous. In fact, our client had hired another lawyer who refused to take the case. Our investigation and trial experience resulted in a \$40,000 judgment .

Proving Fault in a Slip & Fall Case



It may be difficult to prove who was responsible for your slip and fall injury. However, if you've been hurt because of a dangerous condition, or because of an owner or employee's negligence, you may be able to recover your damages from the responsible party. It is an owner's responsibility to keep their property free from dangerous conditions. A dangerous condition is one that creates a substantial risk of injury when a property is used in a reasonably foreseeable manner. Common dangerous conditions include: wet or greasy floors with no warning signs, poor lighting, torn carpeting, changes in elevation, stairs that don't meet building codes, or items left in the walkway.

Remember, slip and fall injuries are not always someone else's fault. For the injured party to have a claim, the property owner must have notice of the dangerous condition, either because:

- he created the condition,
- knew of the condition but negligently failed to fix it, or
- the condition existed for a long enough time prior to an injury that the owner could have discovered and remedied it.

When a grown up falls in Missouri, he or she can be found partly at fault for the injuries. That doesn't mean that the property owner won't be held responsible for damages, only that the owner may not have to pay for all of the damages.

A qualified personal injury attorney will investigate and preserve evidence in your dangerous premise case, as well as identify all of the potentially liable parties.



Winter Weather Slip and Fall Injuries

Winter weather increases slip and fall risks, but it can be tricky to determine if a property owner is liable. There is rarely liability for a fall that happens while snow and ice are still falling or recently stopped. If there is ice and snow around, the best advice is to take it slow. If you have been hurt as the result of a fall, contact the St. Louis slip and fall lawyers at The S.E. Farris Law Firm to help determine if you have a personal injury claim



Don't Hesitate to Contact a Lawyer

You owe it to yourself to explore all of your options and seek the best legal help you can find after any injury. A reputable lawyer will offer you a consultation and give you a fair assessment of your case—even if that means telling you truths that you don't want to accept. It never hurts to get a second opinion, either.

The St. Louis Personal Injury Lawyers at The S.E. Farris Law Firm are experienced in representing victims after slip and fall accidents and in dangerous premise cases. We will fight to recover all of your losses, which can include past and future medical costs, pain and suffering, lost wages, and any permanent disability that remains after an injury.

Call 314-A-LAWYER (314-252-9937) today for a free strategy session, or submit details for a free case evaluation at www.farrislaw.net. The time to pursue a claim against a negligent party in a slip and fall case is limited. It is important to contact an experienced Missouri personal injury attorney as soon as possible to protect your rights.

Call 888-733-3829 or visit www.farrislaw.net