

Messa & Associates

TRIAL ATTORNEYS WITH A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS



We Never Forget that
Behind Every Case, are
Real People

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October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

This month is **National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**. Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women in the United States (aside from skin cancer) and the second leading cause of death in women. In addition to managing your risk factors, early detection is important for an increased chance that treatment will be effective. Breast cancer can be detected through self and clinical examinations, mammograms and Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) testing.

Messa & Associates supports the fight against breast cancer. If you or a loved one has suffered serious injury or death as a result of the delay or misdiagnosis of breast cancer, contact us at 1-877-MessaLaw or visit us at www.messalaw.com.

October is National Fire Safety Month

October is also National Fire Safety Month. In the United States, there is a house fire reported every 90 seconds. House fires kill more people per year than all U.S. natural disasters combined making deaths from fires and burn injuries the fifth most common cause of unintentional injury deaths in the U.S. and the third leading cause of fatal home injury. Common causes of fire can include daily activities and common household items such as cooking, smoking, candles and space heaters.

- Check that heaters or stoves are turned off and candles are blown out before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Never smoke in bed or leave matches and lighters in the reach of children.
- Be cautious of overloaded sockets and wiring that looks worn or damaged.
- Make a fire escape plan for your house and practice what to do in case of an emergency.
- Be certain you have working smoke alarms installed in your home and change the batteries often. A working smoke detector dramatically increases your chance of survival.
- Protect your family with photoelectric smoke detectors since ionization smoke detectors often fail to detect smoldering fires which account for 80 percent of all household fires.

For more information about fire safety or if you or a loved one has suffered serious injury or death as a result of a fire or burn injury, contact us at 1-877-MessaLaw or visit us at www.messalaw.com.

Recent Settlements and Verdicts

Estate of Hyseem Jacobs v. HUP and Dr. Peter Chen, M.D.

\$2.154 Million unanimous jury verdict affirmed by the Pennsylvania Superior Court. The family of Hyseem Jacobs, who was injured at the time of his birth at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania on March 22, 2006, was awarded damages for the child's death.

Last year, a Philadelphia jury found that the Defendants, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and attending ob/gyn Peter Chen, M.D., were negligent in failing to timely perform a Cesarean section delivery of the baby before brain injury occurred. The child sustained a 15 to 20 minute period of severe oxygen deprivation just before delivery, secondary to placental abruption, while under the care of Dr. Chen and HUP. As a result of the brain damage, Hyseem Jacobs was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, and was severely disabled. He died as a result of complications of cerebral palsy at 17 months old.

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Consumer News: *The Recall Report*

Tainted Steroids Cause Meningitis Outbreak Resulting in Illnesses, Deaths

New England Compounding Center, the Massachusetts based manufacturer of the tainted steroids, has recalled approximately 17,700 single-dose vials of the steroids as well as all other products it distributes after tests of at least one sealed vial recovered by investigators were positive for fungus contamination.

The tainted steroids were sent to 23 states, including Tennessee, Michigan, Virginia, Indiana, Florida, Maryland, and New Jersey. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as 13,000 people may have received steroid shots that were tainted with fungi, *Aspergillus* and *Exserohilum*.

Officials say patients who received the tainted steroid shots in their back are at the highest risk of infection. Meningitis is an inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord, and a back injection would put any contaminant in more direct contact with that lining. A spokesman for the CDC said that patients who received injections in their joints are not believed to be at risk for fungal meningitis.

According to the CDC, patients infected have developed a variety of symptoms approximately one to four weeks following their injection. The symptoms have included fever, new or worsening headache, nausea, and new neurological deficit (consistent with deep brain stroke). The CDC also reported that some patients have had strokes as a result of infection.

Unlike more common forms of meningitis, fungal meningitis is not contagious. It can be treated with high-dose antifungal medications which are usually given intravenously in a hospital setting. Therefore, if you or a loved one suspects that you were given a dose from any of the recalled tainted steroid shots, you should immediately contact your physician to obtain testing and necessary treatment. The shots may have begun being given as far back as mid-May, CDC officials said.

If you are experiencing any of the aforementioned symptoms or have been diagnosed with fungal meningitis and you believe that you may have received a tainted steroid injection, contact your doctor immediately. You should also contact the personal injury and medical malpractice lawyers at Messa & Associates at 1-877-MessaLaw for a free case evaluation.

Don't Forget to Vote!

Election Day is on **Tuesday, November 5th**! Make sure your vote is counted.



Have a Happy Halloween! *Trick or Treat Safely*

1. Never let your child Trick or Treat alone
2. Carry a flashlight
3. Be sure your child's costume is flame resistant
4. Walk on the sidewalk
5. Do not cut across driveways
6. Only approach homes with a light on
7. Use reflective tape on dark costumes
8. Check any treats before your child eats them

"We know you want and *deserve* the best when it comes to representation. At Messa & Associates, we strive for nothing short of perfection."

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For more information, please call 1-877-MessaLaw or email glighttower@MessaLaw.com