Medical Malpractice Law Page 1 of 2



**Medical Malpractice Law** involves the liability of medical professionals for malpractice--professional negligence. Medical malpractice lawyers are typically trial lawyers and litigators. Medical malpractice attorneys practice at every stage of a case, from pre-suit notice--drafting demand letters, negotiation, drafting complaints, other pleadings, court filings, issuing and answering discovery, and mediation--to planning and trying the case itself, drafting jury instructions, and handling post-verdict matters.

Medical malpractice lawsuits are complex negligence actions that involve large quantities of specialized discovery—medical records—and rely on expert witnesses. Medical malpractice lawyers need the skills of a general litigator: legal drafting, evidence, civil procedure, pretrial practice, trial advocacy, alternative dispute resolution and some knowledge of appellate practice; as well as a familiarity with medical terminology, practice, and standards of care (which are an important measure of whether a medical professional's mistake rises to the level of malpractice).

For more information, see the <u>American Bar Association Tort Trial & Insurance Section</u>, <u>Medicine and Law</u> <u>Committee</u>, and the <u>Florida Bar Health Law Section</u>.

Job Type	Typical Duties
Federal Agencies	Assist in improving access to health care.
Health Resources and Services	Oversee organ, bone marrow and cord blood donation (HRSA).
Administration	Enhance and protect the health and well-being of Americans by
U.S. Department of Health and	providing for effective health and human services.
Human Services (HHS)	Foster advances in medicine, public health, and social services.
Federal Jobs	Help create and promulgate federal regulation of medicine.
State Agencies	Act on state's behalf in enforcing medical licensing regulations.
Florida Department of Health	Help write medical licensing regulations.
Agency for Health Care	
Administration	
Florida Board of Medicine	
State Jobs	
Private Law Firms	Litigate lawsuits against medical professionals.
	Take depositions and gather evidence.
	Conduct negotiations, mediations and negotiate settlements.
	Represent persons or families who have suffered serious injuries or
	the death of a loved one caused by the negligence of an individual
	or a company.



## Student Organizations

PULSE! Health Law Society

## **Professional Organizations**

Florida Bar Health Law Section

American Bar Association Tort Trial & Insurance Section, Medicine and Law Committee

American Tort Reform Association, Medical Liability Reform Issue Page

American Medical Association

American Board of Professional Liability Attorneys

Medical Justice (anti-medical malpractice suit group)

## **Other Activities**

Obtain an internship with a medical malpractice attorney or firm.

Periodically check the <u>Symplicity Job Board</u> for opportunities in this area of law.