

**NEGLIGENT SECURITY:
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THEM**

The meeting ran longer than planned, and it is now nighttime. As you leave the building, you recall your car is parked off in a far one corner of the parking lot. When you arrived earlier in the day, numerous cars were parked around or near yours. Now, it's very dark in the lot and you notice none of the lights in the lot is working.

You clench your key and you're about to get into the car. Suddenly, a hand reaches out from the shadows to grab you...

This scenario could end in many different ways. But any kind of attack or assault that happens in a dark parking lot could have been avoided if a guard was patrolling the lot or if all of the lights were shining to brightly illuminate the area.

Laws in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa state that property owners are responsible for the safety of their properties. If the owners have failed to keep visitors to their properties safe, they are considered negligent.

Those properties include:

- Bars
- Restaurants
- Gas stations
- Shopping malls
- Banks
- Hotels
- Parking lots
- Apartment buildings

Taxicab drivers even need to provide adequate security provisions in their vehicles for their fares.

Negligent security lawsuits can occur if property owners do not provide adequate security for persons visiting the property. Providing adequate security may include:

- Hiring or training security guards
- Using surveillance cameras
- Providing adequate lighting
- Restricting building access
- Building fences

- Installing door locks
- Shutting windows
- Checking guests for weapons

Do You Need an Attorney?

If you or someone you know was the victim of negligent security and he has suffered from an attack, he should consider contacting an attorney.

At Hupy and Abraham, S.C., P.C., we pride ourselves on being honest and straightforward with our clients and potential clients. It doesn't benefit anyone to pursue litigation when a case isn't strong.

When property owners were negligent in providing security for visitors to their property, they should be held responsible for it. It's very important to have evidence that the property owner in question knew about the property's serious risks or did not take care of any negligent security issues.

The single best way to know if you need an attorney is to speak with one. Share the details of your case, bring any evidence you have, and simply tell your story. A lawyer from Hupy and Abraham, S.C., P.C., will respond to the sensitive story with the concern and compassion that you are entitled to receive. Our attorneys will examine your possible case, answer your questions, and let you know your legal options.

Getting Compensation for Negligent Security

Why should you file a lawsuit after you or one of your loved ones suffered as a result of negligent security? A serious injury and medical care can result in enormous losses, both financial and otherwise. If someone else—such as the owner of a property who did not provide adequate security—is responsible for your condition, he is also responsible for the losses you suffer as a consequence.

Specifically, you may be entitled to the following types of damages if you or a member of your family has been harmed by negligent security:

- **Economic damages.** These damages include the actual money lost due to defective products. Economic damages include medical costs, lost wages, lost future income, and lost earning power.
- **Non-economic damages.** A serious medical condition caused by a defective product can greatly affect your life, your abilities, and your happiness. A liable manufacturer may owe you compensation for any pain and suffering, mental anguish, permanent disabilities, loss of companionship, loss of consortium, or lowered quality of life.
- **Punitive damages.** If a property has been grossly negligent or if it is determined that he has committed an egregious wrong, he may be asked to pay his victims more money as a punishment and as a deterrent. The amount received for punitive damages varies widely.

In short, damages are meant to accomplish two major goals: compensate the victims and their families for what they have lost, and to prevent similar incidents from happening in the future. By filing a lawsuit, you are not only making sure that you receive what you are lawfully owed, you are also making sure that others don't suffer in the way that you have.

What Should You Do If You Have Been Harmed by Negligent Security?

When you suffer an injury in an attack or assault that is someone else's fault, the steps you take to get better and pursue compensation are relatively straightforward. If you believe that you have been harmed by potentially negligent security, the path to justice can be much less clear.

While all negligent security cases are different, there are a few things that everyone should do if they believe they are the victim of negligent security:

- **Get the medical assistance that you need.** Nothing is more important than your health. If you believe negligent security was ultimately responsible for your mental health problems, physical injuries, or other adverse events, you should report your symptoms to a medical professional immediately and voice your concern that your health condition may be tied to the negligent security incident you experienced. Not only will getting medical assistance considerably improve your chances of recovery, it will also document your health issues in the event that you would like to file a lawsuit.

- **Don't hesitate to get a second opinion.** We can't state this enough: your health is the most precious thing that you have. If your doctor isn't convinced that the negligent security episode has affected your health, or if your doctor isn't taking your health concerns seriously, seek a second opinion.
- **Be compliant.** It is difficult to get compensation for illnesses and medical costs if you don't follow treatment plans and doctors' orders. It's also difficult to get well if you aren't listening to your treating medical professionals.
- **Keep notes and records.** Take notes when you visit the doctor. Get copies of your medical records. Keep a diary including communication with law enforcement officials and health observations. Keep track of medical expenses and other monetary losses related to the negligent security event. All of the information you collect could be important to your possible lawsuit.
- **Talk to an attorney—or two—about your case.** Far too many negligent security victims second-guess themselves or delay telling their stories. They do not realize that many attorneys who handle negligent security cases offer free, private consultations, or that a knowledgeable lawyer can analyze the evidence in their case and explain their legal options.

Hiring An Attorney? Ten Questions to Ask During Your Consultation

Even if you have decided that you want to learn more about your possible case, it can be difficult to know whom to turn to, whom to trust, and who will be your optimal partner and advocate. It is important to understand that not all attorneys have specific experience with regard to negligent security cases. In addition, it is important to understand that different attorneys offer different experiences—and at different costs. Below, we've listed ten questions that you should ask potential lawyers before agreeing to work with them on your case.

1. Do you have experience handling negligent security cases?
2. How do you conduct research related to cases like mine?
3. Do you utilize experts? If so, what are their specialties and credentials?
4. What do you believe are the most important aspects of a negligent security lawsuit?
5. Can you share past negligent security case results with me?

6. What are the strengths and weaknesses of my case?
7. What are my legal rights and what are my options for action?
8. Who in your office will handle my case? How will I contact you during my case?
9. What are your feelings on settling as opposed to going to court?
10. How do you bill your clients? What can I expect to pay if I win? What can I expect to pay if I lose?

Don't forget: it's not just experience and expertise that matter. In some cases, a lawyer's personality simply won't complement yours or you may simply not work well with certain attorneys. If you don't feel comfortable with the attorney you are speaking with, or if you don't feel confident about partnering with him or her, consider talking to someone else before making your decision.

How Hupy and Abraham, S.C., Can Help

At Hupy and Abraham, S.C., P.C., we are dedicated to helping those who have been harmed by negligent security—and we are committed to seeking justice for these victims and their families. We offer confidential, complimentary case evaluations to anyone who has been affected by negligent security. Take the first step by contacting us today and we will take care of the rest.

- Call us toll-free at 1-800-800-5678.
- Visit our website at www.hupy.com.
- Fill out the electronic quick-contact form located on our website.
- Chat in real time with a real person by using the live chat option on our website.
- Stop by one of our offices, with eleven different locations in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa.

About Hupy and Abraham, S.C.

Founded in 1969 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, personal injury law firm Hupy and Abraham, S.C., P.C., has a proven record of success with large settlements in serious cases, collecting hundreds of millions of dollars for thousands of satisfied clients. The firm has a

long-established reputation of providing sound legal representation to accident victims, securing fair compensation for its clients, and giving back to the community.

The law firm, which has offices located in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin, handles personal injury cases including car accidents, motorcycle accidents, wrongful death, and pharmaceutical and medical device class actions.

The firm's sixteen experienced attorneys are committed to going above and beyond the call of duty for their clients by tirelessly representing them to the best of their ability while being involved in the local community—from raising funds for local charities to participating in safety and accident prevention initiatives. In 2012, the firm donated more than \$200,000 to over 100 community organizations.

Hupy and Abraham, S.C., P.C., has received top ratings from *a number of national and local professional organizations* for many years and was voted *Best Personal Injury Lawyers by the readers of the Shepherd Express in 2011, 2012 and 2013* and named *Best Personal Injury Law Firm by voters in the WISN A-List poll in 2012 and 2013*.

To learn more about Hupy and Abraham, S.C., P.C., visit their website at www.hupy.com.