
Accident impacts on witnesses and family members

Date : July 28, 2017

Personal Injury Lawyer - loss and trauma

Sometimes accidents can have a debilitating effect not only on the victims of injury, but also on close family or witnesses to the incident.

The witness or close family member of the victim may experience symptoms of secondary trauma, which often mimic those of [post-traumatic stress disorder](#). Experts suggest that this insidious form of stress can be as debilitating as experiencing the trauma in person.

Those experiencing symptoms of secondary trauma should speak to their doctor about coping strategies and seek [professional counseling](#) where possible. This will assist them in managing the potential health impacts and help prevent the development of ongoing mental injuries.

If a person has experienced the sudden death or significant injury of a family member, they may also be deprived of the financial support or care that they would have received but for the victim's injuries.

There may be compensation available if the death or injury was the result of another's negligence. This could include compensation for financial losses, care, medical and funeral expenses. There may also be separate compensation available for witnesses or family members who are diagnosed with consequential mental harm.

It is worthwhile noting that a claim for pure mental harm can also be brought by a surviving victim. For example, clinical anxiety and depression may have developed as secondary injuries following an accident in which the person sustained physical injuries.

To ensure that your rights are protected it is important to obtain the advice of a Personal Injury lawyer as soon as possible.

Our [Personal Injury Lawyers](#) can provide practical solutions and exceptional results in relation to your compensation claim on a No Win, No Fee basis. Call **1300 773 529** or email a Personal Injury lawyer at info@matthewsfolbigg.com.au. We can then arrange an initial telephone conference to discuss.

Matthews Folbigg has over 50 years' experience protecting personal injury and compensation rights of people living in Parramatta and the Hills.