

Wrongful Death

Support, compensation, and legal guidance when negligence causes a loved one's death



This short ebook explains what a wrongful death claim is, who can file, what damages may be available, and how Hillstone Law supports families throughout the process.

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What is wrongful death in California

A wrongful death occurs when a person dies because of another party's negligence, recklessness, or intentional act. To succeed you must show duty of care, breach of that duty, and that the breach caused the death.

Who can file a lawsuit

- Spouse or registered domestic partner
- Children of the deceased, or grandchildren if the children are deceased
- Parents or siblings when there are no descendants
- Anyone who was financially dependent on the deceased, when permitted by law

Common sources of wrongful death cases

- Traffic crashes including cars, trucks, motorcycles, and pedestrians
- Medical malpractice and dangerous products
- Workplace incidents and construction accidents
- Unsafe property conditions and violent acts

Damages families may recover

- Medical bills related to the final illness or injury
- Funeral and burial expenses
- Loss of financial support based on the deceased's earnings and benefits
- Loss of companionship, care, guidance, and household services
- Other losses recognized by California law

Deadlines to file

- General rule, 2 years from the date of death
- Claims involving a public entity, administrative claim usually due within 6 months

Why choose Hillstone Law

We conduct thorough investigations, work with economic and medical experts, and pursue full compensation. Our representation is contingency based, you pay nothing up front and no attorney's fees unless we win.

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