

# THE ADVOCATE MUNDY ROGERS & ASSOCIATES, LLP

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MUNDY  
ROGERS  
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G. Marshall Mundy  
Frank W. Rogers III

## SPECIALIZING IN:

- Medical malpractice
- Family law
- Personal injury
- Wrongful death
- Nursing home litigation

1328 Third Street, SW  
Roanoke, VA 24016  
540-982-2900  
Fax: 540-982-1362  
E-mail:  
info@mundryrogers.com  
Web site:  
www.mundryrogers.com

## TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

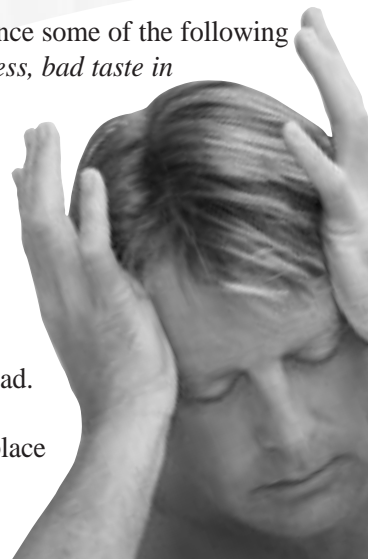
Head injuries are not like injuries to other parts of the body. A blow to the head can cause severe damage that can affect all aspects of the mind—from the five senses to the ability to reason, from sleep patterns to personality.

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is caused when the head suffers a sudden trauma. TBI can be caused by a car accident, fall, bullet, sports injury, or explosive shock. The extent of damage can range from mild to severe, depending on the specifics of the injury.

A victim of TBI may or may not lose consciousness, but will experience some of the following symptoms: *headache, confusion, dizziness, blurred vision, lightheadedness, bad taste in the mouth, ringing in the ears, fatigue, mood changes, trouble with memory, trouble sleeping, inability to concentrate, or struggles with thinking and paying attention.* More severe cases include symptoms such as *a headache that gets progressively worse, repeated vomiting and nausea, convulsions, seizures, dilation of the pupils, slurred speech, loss of coordination, confusion, agitation, restlessness, numbness of the extremities, loss of consciousness, and inability to awaken from sleep.*

Medical attention should always be sought immediately any time a head injury occurs, even if you initially “feel OK” after a blow to the head. TBI can lead to permanent brain and nerve damage.

If you suffer a TBI injury due to an auto accident, assault, or a workplace mishap, or have symptoms overlooked by a medical practitioner, call us for help in protecting your rights.



## ASSISTED-LIVING RESIDENCES

When concerned family members search for a care residence for a beloved grandparent or parent, they need to look past pleasant decor.

They should investigate resident-care assessment and planning, medication treatment, dressing and bathing assistance, nutrition needs and dining experiences, discomfort assessment, and social engagement and activity plans.

### Bed side rails

A 66-year-old nursing home resident suffering from Parkinson's disease fell from her bed and was asphyxiated after becoming wedged between the bed and a wall. Her two children, individually and on behalf of their mother's estate, sued the nursing home, alleging the facility failed to provide their mother with a bed equipped with side rails, in contravention of her care plan. A jury awarded damages and court costs.

*Dedicated. Respected. Results-driven.*

## Think twice before running that red light

More and more often, red light cameras are being installed at intersections to improve safety by catching light runners.

Most of these setups include multiple cameras positioned to take pictures of vehicles traveling in any direction. When a vehicle passes a certain point on the road, it sets off a trigger that tells one of the cameras to snap two pictures. The first photo shows the vehicle on the edge of the intersection; the second shows it in the middle. Most of these cameras are digital and send their photos to a computer. Some systems include a camera installed at an angle to capture a photo of the driver's face. The owner of the light-running vehicle can expect to receive a ticket in the mail in a few weeks.

The hope is that these cameras will help to cut down on the accidents caused by drivers running red lights. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, these accidents account for 22 percent of all traffic accidents in the United States. It is estimated that these accidents kill 800 people and cause \$7 billion in property damage, medical bills, lost productivity, and insurance hikes every year.

If you find yourself at an intersection thinking about saving some time by running a red light, remember...you may be on camera.

If you received a citation in the mail for running a red light, call us. We may be able to help.

## New FDA Web site makes tracking recalls easier

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently launched a brand-new Web site to make it easier for consumers to find out about and track recalled products.

About 3,000 Americans are killed by contaminated food every year, and 128,000 are hospitalized. The FDA is hoping that the site, along with new powers granted under the Food Safety Modernization Act (such as the ability of the FDA to directly recall a tainted product), will lead to fewer outbreaks.

The searchable site features drugs, medical devices, and veterinary products as well as food. It can be found at [www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls](http://www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls).

## MEET LADY JUSTICE



You may not know her name, but you've surely seen Lady Justice around. She's tall, made of stone, and wears a blindfold. She carries a scale in one hand and a double-edged sword in the other. Lady Justice is a common sight outside courthouses throughout America as well as Europe. So, what's her story?

Lady Justice's story started as far back as ancient Egypt, where the goddess Maat (and later Isis) personified the idea of justice as balancing the scales of truth and fairness. The Greek goddess Themis and her daughter, Dike, later represented the ideal of justice. The next goddess to carry the scales was the Roman deity Justitia.

The image of Justitia is the one we're familiar with today. She carries the scales in one hand, which she uses to weigh the strengths of a case's support and opposition. The double-edged sword she carries in her right hand symbolizes reason and justice. The blindfold she normally wears represents her objectivity.

She may not always be dressed the same, but Lady Justice will forever represent the same thing: an ideal legal system based on equality for all.

# The 1, 2, 3's

## of defensive driving

And what to do if you are in a vehicle accident

*Safe driving means doing three things...*

### 1. PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY

- Drive the safest cars or trucks possible.
- Keep your vehicles in good operating condition.
- Purchase sufficient auto insurance coverage, including uninsured and underinsured motorist protection, for all family drivers.

### 2. DRIVE DEFENSIVELY

- Buckle seat belts.
- Obey all traffic controls and signals.
- Leave a safe distance between cars.
- Avoid cell phones, text messaging, and other distractions.
- Never drive while impaired.



### 3. CALL US IF YOU GET INTO AN ACCIDENT

Even if you have a safe car and drive cautiously, you can still be the victim of another driver's negligence. Four things to do right away following an accident are:

- Call law enforcement.
- Obtain immediate medical care.
- Record all accident information and take photos.
- Notify your insurer about the accident.



## Referrals

*Thanks to all of you who have recommended our firm to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. We appreciate your vote of confidence and pledge to care for these "VIPs" as well as we care for you.*

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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional legal advice. For your specific situation, please consult the appropriate legal professional.

## Be alert to MEDICAL MISTAKES

Before any surgical procedure or medical test, it is your right to be advised of the risks associated with the procedure, and the consequences should it not go as expected.

You will be asked to sign a form indicating that you understand and accept the risks. This is called "informed consent," and it is only valid if you understood the consent form, if the information was presented in plain language, and if your doctor or another medical representative was present to answer your questions to your satisfaction.

Understanding the risks associated with surgery or medical tests does not limit your rights to pursue legal recourse if there should be a bad outcome due to medical mistakes.



Some of the most common medical errors involved in malpractice litigation include:



- **Childbirth-related complications.** These can begin with prenatal-care mistakes, such as the failure to diagnose problems relating to the pregnancy, like identifying an ectopic pregnancy or pre-eclampsia, that put the mother's and the baby's health at risk. Other common errors include not performing a timely cesarean section, not anticipating complications, and incompetent use of forceps.
- **Medication errors.** These account for more than 1.5 million injuries every year in the United States and include dispensing errors such as wrong dosages or medication mix-ups, improperly prescribing medications for a condition, or dangerous drug interactions.
- **Misdiagnosis or delay of diagnosis.**
- **Anesthesia errors and surgical mistakes.**

If you or a loved one has experienced a negative medical outcome, do not assume that because a consent form was signed that you have waived your rights to compensation. Get your medical records, keep a record of your complications, and contact our office to discuss what legal actions might be appropriate.