

Your Right to be Fully Informed of the Nature of Proposed Medical Treatment Before You Consent to It

What must my health care provider tell me about a proposed medical treatment?

Under the doctrine of "informed consent," you have a right to be given sufficient information to make an intelligent decision regarding your medical care. This is because you have the right to decide what happens to your body. To be fully informed before you can consent to medical treatment you should be told:

1. The nature and character of the proposed treatment;
2. The anticipated results of the proposed treatment;
3. The recognized possible alternative treatments; and
4. The recognized possible risks, complications, and anticipated benefits involved in the treatment, including non-treatment.

You may choose not to be informed of the above information.

What should you do if you have received medical treatment to which you did not give your informed consent?

Contact a lawyer. If you have been hurt by your health care provider's failure to obtain your informed consent, you may be entitled

to money damages. If a lawyer thinks you have a good case, the lawyer might take your case on a "contingency fee" basis. This means you will not have to pay the lawyer any fees at the beginning of the case or if you lose the case. If you win the case, the lawyer's fee will be a percentage of the money you are awarded. The amount of that percentage will be determined by the contract you sign with the lawyer. Read any contract carefully before you decide to sign it. A lawyer should consult with you for free to determine if you have a good case. To find a lawyer, consult the Yellow Pages or your local bar association.

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