



Medical Malpractice

Course Description

Medical Malpractice is one of the most lucrative and controversial areas of personal injury law practice. The course begins with medical malpractice causes of action and the responsibilities medical professionals have to their patients. It also focuses on the duty element of negligence torts by discussing responsibilities to patients and third parties. The course also analyzes the informed consent requirement for medical treatment, the linchpin of many malpractice actions.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the responsibilities healthcare providers owe to their patients;
- Analyze whether healthcare providers have upheld their duties of care in given situations;
- Determine whether causation and damages have been established in given medical malpractice cases;
- Relate the role of insurance companies in medical malpractice cases;
- Understand the uses and qualifications of expert witnesses in medical malpractice cases;
- Discuss the potential liabilities faced by healthcare institutions for medical malpractice.

Final Exam

Grades and credit recommendations are based solely on a final exam. When students are ready to take the final exam, they should register for a LawShelf account (or simply log in, for those with existing accounts). Go to the video-course page and click "Take the Final Exam" and pay the exam fee, where applicable. Students will be given instructions on how to take the exam. All exams are proctored by the Voice Proctor® proctoring system. An overview of the system is [provided here](#) and it requires no training or learning curve. Grades of 70% or above are considered passing grades and qualify for recommended transfer credit.

The final exam is based on the video course modules. Additional resources detailed in this syllabus are helpful for background and for building greater understanding of the course materials. Inquiries can be made through the LawShelf Contact form on our website by clicking the "email us" button that appears at the bottom of most LawShelf pages. Transcripts can be ordered via Parchment, as detailed on our website.

Case Studies

Many LawShelf video courses include case studies. These do not necessarily teach new material but are meant to demonstrate how the materials covered in the course are applied by various courts. Concepts covered in the case studies are covered on the final exam, so make sure to watch the case studies before taking the exam. However, it is unnecessary to memorize the facts and details of the cases covered in these case studies.

Self-Quizzes

Video-course modules and case studies feature self-quizzes that consist of practice questions on the materials covered in the videos. These questions are presented for the benefit of the student and are **important to review before taking the final exam** because they are similar in style and substance to the questions on the final exam. These quizzes are not graded or monitored and there is no record of how students answer these questions. Students may answer these questions as many times as they like and are encouraged to keep re-taking the quizzes until they have mastered all the questions.

Study Guide

Introductory Videos

These videos provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

Elements of Negligence

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/elements-of-negligence/>

Tort Law: The Rules of Medical Malpractice

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/tort-law-the-rules-of-medical-malpractice/>

Negligence in Tort Law: Res Ipsa Loquitur and Negligence Per Se

<https://lawshelf.com/shortvideoscontentview/negligence-in-tort-law-res-ipsa-loquitur-and-negligence-per-se/>

Courseware Readings

These courseware readings provide background to help students better understand the main parts of the course, which are the video-course modules below.

The following readings can be found in the “Foundations of Law” courseware, under Torts:

Negligence Section 1

[Introduction to Negligence](#)

[Duty of Care Part 1](#)

[Duty of Care Part 2](#)

[Breach of Duty Part 1](#)

[Breach of Duty Part 2](#)

Negligence Section 2

[Cause and Harm](#)

[Proximate Cause](#)

[Indirect Causation](#)

Video Course Modules

These videos constitute the main part of the course and are they sources of the questions on the final exam.

Medical Malpractice Course Overview Video

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursescontentview/medical-malpractice>

The Doctor-Patient Relationship - Module 1 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/the-doctor-patient-relationship-module-1-of-5>

Standard of Care - Module 2 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/standard-of-care-module-2-of-5>

Causation, Defenses, and Damages - Module 3 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/causation-defenses-and-damages-module-3-of-5>

Lawsuits and the Role of Insurance - Module 4 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/lawsuits-and-the-role-of-insurance-module-4-of-5>

Liability of Health Care Institutions- Module 5 of 5

<https://lawshelf.com/videocoursesmoduleview/liability-of-health-care-institutions-module-5-of-5>

Supplemental Suggested Readings

These materials enable students to achieve a deeper understanding of the course materials and in applying the course to real-life situations.

The Expert Witness in Medical Malpractice Litigation, US National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2628518/>

Medical Malpractice, Insurance Information Institute

<https://www.iii.org/issue-update/medical-malpractice>

Choosing Medical Malpractice, Washington Law Review

<https://digitalcommons.law.uw.edu/wlr/vol93/iss2/7/>