

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT BIRTH INJURIES

At Freidin Brown, P.A., our birth injury attorneys are also parents. Therefore, we want to empower all new and future parents with the tools needed to ensure they get proper treatment if they suspect their child was injured due to negligent care providers.

What is a birth injury?

How to identify a birth injury?

A birth injury is an injury that occurs to your baby before, during, or shortly after delivery. This could be a result of poor monitoring during the pregnancy, failure to identify and diagnose a condition, or misuse of medical equipment during the delivery.

Minor birth injuries tend to heal themselves. However, more severe injuries require prompt and attentive care to manage the condition. It is important to seek treatment immediately if you suspect your baby has been injured.



7 out of 1,000 babies every year are affected by birth injuries caused by medical negligence

Birth Injury vs. Birth Defect?

A **birth injury** is harm that is caused during pregnancy or childbirth. Examples of a birth injury include brachial plexus injury, cerebral palsy, Erb's palsy, cephalohematoma, fractured collarbone, and Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP). Many more birth injuries exist with a range of severity.

A **birth defect** develops while the child is still in the womb often early on during the pregnancy. Birth defects can be identified before or right after the child's delivery. While some defects have no particular cause others can be a result of external factors such as genetics or other environmental factors. With proper testing, birth defects can usually be detected early in a pregnancy.

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KEEP THESE QUESTIONS IN MIND DURING YOUR PREGNANCY

The below list of questions is non-exhaustive but should cover the majority of concerns a new parent may have. It is also important to take notes during your doctor appointments.

1ST TRIMESTER

- Are my prescription medications safe for pregnancy?
- Am I at risk for any complications or conditions?
- Which over-the-counter medications are safe?
- Which prenatal screenings do I need?
- What can I do, what should I avoid?
- Which symptoms are normal, which aren't? When should I call you?
- What are my delivery options?

2ND TRIMESTER

- How is my child's development?
- What tests should I get done this trimester?
- What is my projected delivery date?
- What symptoms are normal? What symptoms are abnormal?
- What complications can arise this trimester?
- Is spotting normal in the second trimester?
- What types of pain management will I have access to during labor?
- Are my prescription medications safe to continue taking?

3RD TRIMESTER

- Will there be a nurse with me throughout my whole labor?
- What support is available if I want to breastfeed?
- Every time I feel the baby move, it hurts. Is this normal?
- Can we talk about my birth plan?
- How likely is it that I'll need a C-section?
- How can I tell if I'm going into labor vs. false labor?
- Is it normal that my hands and feet are swollen?



If you believe you or your child suffered a birth injury from a negligent provider, reach out to our birth injury attorneys for a FREE consultation.

When it comes to your child, time is of the utmost importance so reach out as soon as you suspect an injury may have occurred by scanning the QR code.

