



MAG MILE LAW

COUNSELORS & TRIAL ATTORNEYS

WHAT TO DO AFTER SLIPPING (OR TRIPPING) AND FALLING

April 3, 2020

1. *Be thorough at the scene.* This may be the only time to document the scene as it existed when the accident happened. Take photos and/or of the entire accident scene – including the floor, walls, lighting, video camera locations, etc. At this time, you don't know what might be relevant for a future claim, so take as many photos and videos as you can. Speak with witnesses who may have stopped at the scene and obtain their information.
2. *Cooperate with the staff on duty at the time.* Report your incident to the manager on duty at the store. Provide him or her with all the facts about what happened. Just provide the facts, as best as you can remember them. They should take your information down so they can prepare a written report to submit to their insurance carrier. ***Ask them if there are video cameras that cover the scene and, if so, tell them that you want them to retain their video. You will also need to follow up in writing (see below).***
3. *Get medical attention.* Even if you don't go to the hospital in an ambulance, seek medical attention right away. Go to the ER or see your personal physician. You may have internal injuries you don't even know about. Also, defense attorneys question the seriousness of an injury when claimants do not seek medical attention right away.
4. *Call your insurance company as promptly as possible.* Report what happened while, again, giving them the facts about the accident. Don't offer your opinions.
5. *Don't speak to other insurance companies.* The insurance company for the store will want to speak with you about the accident. You are not required to do so! If you have a lawyer, tell them to contact your lawyer. If you don't have a lawyer, you can politely decline speaking to the other insurance company.
6. *Request all video from the date of the accident.* Stores do not retain videos very long; some only retain videos for 30 days! It is important to request their video from the date of the accident AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. If you hire an attorney, they will do this for you.
7. *Document your injuries.* Take photos of your injuries. Make a journal about how you feel every day. Be specific about how the accident has injured you and have those injuries have affected your daily activities.
8. *Contact an attorney.* If you haven't already done so, call an attorney. Ask for a free consultation, as many attorneys - including Mag Mile Law - offer these free of charge. Ask for a personal meeting. At the meeting, bring everything you have relating to the accident with you, including photos, videos, reports, etc., and provide them with as much information as you can. This will help the attorney evaluate your case.
9. *After hiring an attorney, follow up with them.* Check on your case. Provide him or her with any updates on your medical status. Don't hesitate to call or email your attorney. It's your case and your life, and you should never feel bad about contacting your attorney.