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What is Considered a Tractor-Trailer?

Tractor-trailers are classified as large trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating greater than 10,000 pounds. Most tractor-trailer companies and drivers are governed by federal and/or state laws related to “motor carriers.” There are two kinds of motor carriers:

- **Interstate Carriers:** they transport goods or people across state lines
- **Intrastate Carriers:** they operate entirely within one state

What Are Typical Tractor-Trailer Accidents?

While every case is unique, there are certain situations that tend to repeat when a tractor-trailer accident is at the fault of the driver. These include:

- When a driver blocks the roadway and is not easily visible to an approaching passenger vehicle
- Hours of service violations and fatigued drivers
- Mechanical defects
- When a tractor-trailer is overloaded or loaded improperly

How Can Overloaded Trucks Cause Crashes?

Overloaded and improperly loaded tractor-trailers cause some of the most preventable accidents. These crashes are typically caused by:

- Tire damage and blowouts from the enormous pressure on tires
- Rollover caused by weight imbalances
- Trouble stopping when going downhill or getting speed going uphill
- Collapsed bridges and overpasses from trucks being too heavy

Tractor-Trailer Compensation:

Victims can sue truck drivers that overload or improperly load their trucks, and trucking companies that encourage or knowingly allow their drivers to do so. Trucking companies can also be sued under a theory of respondent superior when their employees negligently cause an accident. Victims are entitled to be fully compensated for their harm, including for:

- Medical bills
- Vehicle damage
- Lost wages
- Pain and suffering



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Seriously Injured from a Car Accident?

One of the most important things for victims of auto accidents to do is to find a reputable doctor. A reputable doctor that has experience dealing with the specific type of injuries suffered can not only provide the best possible care but also can prepare the type of medical record that an accident victim will need to utilize later on when, or if, they bring a personal injury claim.

What is the Process?

Victims of accidents caused by another driver's negligence are entitled to compensation for things like medical bills, lost wages, and pain and suffering. In order to receive compensation, it is important for victims to do the following:

- **Find a Specialist:** Medical records are critical evidence in a personal injury claim. Specialists focusing on the specific type of injury incurred will be able to create records with more detail and expertise. Moreover, a specialist will simply be better equipped to provide the right care needed.
- **Act Immediately:** As more time passes, it may be possible for the defendant to argue that something other than the car crash caused the harm. If money is an issue when hiring a doctor, medical liens are an option. This means that the doctor is not paid up front, but he or she is paid out of any settlement that comes from a personal injury lawsuit.
- **Be Honest with the Doctor:** Regardless of whether a pre-existing condition helps or hurts a claim, victims should always give their doctor full and truthful information about their health. The opposing party in a personal injury suit will likely find out everything there is to know anyway. Similarly, there is little purpose in exaggerating or embellishing your condition.
- **Get Help from an Experienced Personal Injury Attorney:** Relying on an experienced attorney is crucial for helping victims receive the compensation and attention they need in a timely manner.

What about Medical Record Privacy Concerns?

Privacy and safety of the victim are of the utmost concern. In order to keep medical records private while still proving personal injury:

- The victim can sign an authorization for release and submit it to their provider.
- Their attorney can then request medical records from the healthcare provider.



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