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WELCOME TO BITELAW.COM

This is the right place for you if:

- You live in the State of Arizona.
- You or a member of your household, has been the victim of a dog bite or mauling.
- You don't own the dog.
- The injuries are serious. For example: where stitches are needed; flesh is torn leaving the potential for scarring; bones are broken; emotional and psychological damage may have been done.

If you or a family member has been attacked by someone else's dog and has received serious injury, it is important that you be represented by an Attorney who is experienced in handling dog bite cases. For 33 years I have been successfully representing dog bite victims. There is no charge to review and evaluate your case. All you need to do is call my office by dialing either BITELAW (248-3529) or 318-3200. Either phone numbers puts you in touch with my office. We can set up an appointment that is convenient for you. I would like to share some additional basic information with you at this time.

LIABILITY

When a person is a victim of a dog bite, it's important to understand who is legally responsible for the damage that the dog does. Obviously, the owner of the dog is the responsible party. However, they are only legally responsible if the law says so. Fortunately, there is a strict liability in Arizona for a dog bite. Basically that means that a dog owner is responsible for the injuries their dog inflicts even if the dog has never bitten anyone before. The dog does not get "free bite". However, there are some defenses to a dog bite claim. This is why you should be represented by an experienced Attorney who will investigate the case. One defense might be based upon a claim that the dog was provoked and the victim caused the dog to bite.

PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO THE VICTIM

Dog bites can cause complicated wounds and injuries. Some dog bites are quite deep and can cause both nerve and muscle damage that may not at first be apparent in an emergency room. Also, because of the nature of vicious bites, the wounds themselves can involve jagged tears and ripping that may require plastic surgery. However, even with the services of a skilled plastic surgeon, the victims of a vicious dog bite may be left with permanent physical scarring. There are many types of physical damages that dog bites can inflict. It's important that a victim be guided to get the best medical attention available. I will discuss medical costs later on.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE

Being the victim of a vicious dog bite or mauling can leave the victim with substantial psychological and emotional damage. Often the services of a trained psychologist, psychiatrist, or counselor may be needed to help the victim overcome fear, anxiety, depression and other psychological and emotional conditions resulting from being attacked. This can be as true for child victims as it can be for adults. Sometimes children do not immediately show all the signs of the psychological and emotional damage that they may have experienced. It is important to work with an Attorney who is sensitive to these issues so that they may be addressed in treatment. It's also important they be identified so that they can be part of a claim for full compensation.

REVIEWING YOUR CASE IS FREE

I represent dog bite victims based on a contingent fee. I have an extra reduced fee for children who are dog bite victims. Because there is no charge to evaluate a case, you should not hesitate to call me at BITELAW (248-3529) or 318-3200 and I can review your case.

MEDICAL COSTS

Sometimes a dog bite can cause injuries that will last a lifetime if not treated properly. It's important to get full and complete medical attention for the victim. If a dog bite victim is covered by their own medical insurance, HMO, or similar medical coverage, they should use that resource to get the medical attention that is needed. However, there are other sources that will pay for medical care. These include the homeowner's insurance for the owner of the dog that caused the attack. There are also some situations where a medical doctor or medical provider will accept a medical lien, or promise of future payment, to come from the eventual settlement or verdict of a dog bite claim. There are also circumstances where a victim may believe that their own medical insurance or HMO will not provide them with all the medical care that they should properly have. An example would be a refusal to pay for extra services from a plastic surgeon or refusing to pay for psychological counseling. Sometimes we want to use the services of doctors or medical

providers that the HMO will not cover. I always discuss all these issues of full medical coverage with my clients.

COLLECTING COMPENSATION FOR THE VICTIM

If you or a household member has been the victim of a serious dog bite by someone else's dog, you may be entitled to compensation for pain and suffering, medical bills, psychological and emotional damage, and any other damage you may have experienced. When a child has been the victim of a dog bite, that child is entitled to full compensation. In addition, the child's parents may also be entitled to some compensation under certain circumstances. Who pays for these damages?

The answer is that typically the homeowner's insurance of the owner of the dog will be responsible and cover the financial obligation for the injuries. Most people that own a home have homeowner's insurance. Insurance premiums are collected by the insurance company with the knowledge that from time to time it will have to pay claims when people are injured. However, insurance companies fight very hard to pay little or no money. They hire Lawyers, investigators, and medical doctors in their effort to fight these claims. It's important to be able to fight back and have a competent Lawyer on your side to get you the full compensation in a particular case.

If the owner of the dog is a relative, friend, or neighbor, you should not feel bad that you are making a claim. It will probably be paid by their insurance company. There are also circumstances where the owner of the dog does not have any insurance to cover the claim, but they do have sufficient assets to pay the claim themselves. Each case is different and the issue of collecting for the victim should be discussed when your case is evaluated.

ATTORNEY FEES

As I mentioned, I typically handle these cases on a percentage or contingency based upon the recovery. It is "no recovery no fee". In plain English that means that I do not get paid if I do not collect money for the dog bite victim. My fee is a smaller percentage for children that are victims of a dog bite. Legal ethics require that any Attorney that handles an injury claim on a contingent or percentage basis still must have the client agree to be responsible for any actual out-of-pocket costs. However, in the typical case, those actual costs are very small. This has never prevented any client of mine from going forward with their claim. This is something else that I always discuss with clients as part of evaluating their case.

ONLY AN EXPERIENCED ATTORNEY HANDLES YOUR CASE!

I handle each dog bite case personally. I do not turn these cases over to a paralegal or junior attorney. Occasionally, I will also work with another very experienced attorney. He is Attorney William Ricker, who has 21 year of experience handling serious dog bite

cases. He is certified by the State Bar of Arizona as a specialist in the area of personal injury and wrongful death.

IF YOU DON'T CALL, I CAN'T HELP YOU

Frankly, many people have the wrong idea, or incomplete information, about the law and their rights if they are a dog bite victim. I have been representing bite victims for 28 years. I am happy to evaluate your case for free. I will give you all the necessary information as it applies to your case. I will answer any questions you may have about your case. I do not charge to evaluate a claim. Therefore, there is no risk to calling me to check things out. However, if you do not call, I cannot help you or your family member who has been a victim of a dog bite.

I am sorry if you or a member of your household has been the victim of a serious dog bite attack by someone else's dog. However, if this has happened, you or your family member should be compensated to the full extent that the law allows. That is what I am dedicated to doing in my practice!

Thank you for visiting my web site.

Philip S. Abromowitz