

## **Compensatory vs. Punitive Damages**

If someone you love has died due to the negligence of another party, then you may be entitled to wrongful death compensation. There are [two different categories of damages](#) which juries may award in Nevada wrongful death lawsuits.

The most common type of award is known as compensatory damages, which are designed to cover costs associated with your loved one's death. These may include:

- burial and funeral costs
- medical expenses
- lost wages and benefits from future employment
- loss of consortium
- mental anguish
- pain and suffering

So while some compensatory damages are simply expenses that are reimbursable, others (like mental anguish and pain and suffering) are more subjective.

The other type is called punitive damages. Juries can award punitive damages in a wrongful death lawsuit if they feel that the person, company, or group which caused the death was intentional, reckless, or grossly negligent in its actions (or inaction).

The purpose of punitive damages is to incentivize a defendant to make sure that a similar occurrence never happens again. So when punitive damages are awarded it is not uncommon for the amount to be in the millions (or even billions) of dollars.

Punitive damages can be awarded in wrongful death cases where:

- drug companies' medications kill individuals who took them as directed
- doctors, nurses, or other health care providers commit gross medical malpractice
- manufacturing plants introduce harmful substances into the soil or water that resulted in someone's death
- [drunk drivers](#) with multiple offenses kill a motorist or pedestrian

o About the Editor: Farhan R. Naqvi is a [Las Vegas personal injury lawyer](#) who has experience representing victims injured in [car accidents](#), [drunk driver crashes](#), [truck wrecks](#), [slip and falls](#), [taxi cab accidents](#), and [bicycle crashes](#). He also has experience handling [spine injury](#), [product liability](#), [underinsured/uninsured driver](#), and [wrongful death](#) cases. If you've been

seriously hurt in an accident in Summerlin, North Las Vegas, Clark County, Henderson, Boulder City, Green Valley, or Pahrump, give Farhan a call at 702-553-1000 for a free, no-hassle consultation.