

Plane Crashes, Aviation Law, and Aviation Accident Law in California - What You Should Know

These days, plane crashes are not extremely common, nor is fright about flying. But plane crashes do happen, and with them, injuries. Being involved in a plane crash can be traumatic in many respects - a plane crash can cause injuries, loss of work, and emotional pain, among other problems. Victims of a plane crash can find these things very hard to deal with. Unlike a car accident, most people don't own insurance that covers them in a plane crash, and the likelihood is they don't know anyone else who has been in one either. Consequently, figuring out how to handle the accident, especially its legal aspects, can be considerably challenging.

Whether you are simply a concerned flyer or you know someone who has been involved in a plane accident, there are several things you should know about the legal aspects of a plane crash or aviation accident.

Aviation Accident Law

Aviation accidents, including plane crashes, helicopter accidents, and other flying accidents, fall under the umbrella of personal injury law. Personal injury law is an area of civil law involving injuries and damages that take place as the result of another's actions (or inactions). In almost all personal injury cases, the plaintiff (person suing) is responsible for proving that they were injured because someone else was *negligent* - meaning there was a duty owed the plaintiff that was not performed at all or not performed with proper care. This rule holds true for aviation accidents. To receive compensation in court for injuries received in a plane crash, a victim must prove that someone was negligent.

Many causes of plane crashes can potentially amount to negligence under aviation accident law. These include crashing with another plane, pilot error, plane maintenance problem, mistakes made by air traffic control, and defective planes.

It is also important to know that aviation accident law can involve state, federal (Federal Aviation Administration), and international law, depending on the location, extent, and type of the aviation accident.

What to do after a plane crash or aviation accident

- **Seek medical help.** Ensuring the safety of yourself and your loved ones should be your first concern after a plane crash. After you have made it away from the immediate danger of the aviation accident, it is vital that you seek medical help. Plane crashes and other aviation accidents commonly cause injuries. If you think you may have been hurt or traumatized in any way, get medical help before doing anything else.
- **Contact the FAA, NTSB, and the airline.** The FAA, NTSB, and the airline or plane owner all have resources that will be of interest to you if you have been involved in a plane crash. Many airlines have policies and insurance coverage that you will want to know about. Likewise, the FAA and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) can provide you with resources about all the rules, regulations, and procedures surrounding a plane crash.
- **Consult with a California Lawyer Experienced in Aviation Cases.** Because aviation accidents are so scarce and the law so complex, having an experienced lawyer by your side if you or a loved is involved in an aviation crash. An experienced California aviation lawyer can provide the resources and representation you need to receive compensation for a plane crash. Whether you have more general questions about liability, medical insurance, or are interested in filing a personal injury or wrongful death lawsuit, be sure to speak with a personal injury lawyer or aviation accident lawyer as soon as you can.