



Information Sheet: Birth Injury

Having a baby should be one of the most exciting times in your life. Fortunately, most births proceed without complications. However, when complications do occur, it can be a confusing and devastating experience for all those involved.

Alsters Kelley's birth injury lawyers are specialists in advising victims of medical accidents. We have vast experience in dealing with all aspects of birth injury to both the mother and the baby. The types of injury involved are:

- **Baby injuries:**
 - Cerebral Palsy. This can be caused where your baby has been starved of oxygen at or around the time of birth.
 - Brain Damage. This can often cause cerebral palsy.
 - Erbs Palsy also called brachial plexus injury in the birth canal. This can occur when the baby gets stuck in the birth canal.
 - Facial palsy. These can occur through the use of forceps or during an episiotomy.
 - Umbilical cord insufficiency and complications.
 - Ruptured placenta. This is also known as placental abruption. This is a medical emergency and can result in a lack of oxygen to your baby.
 - Fractures to the arm, collarbone or shoulder caused during delivery.
 - Congenitally dislocated hips also know as hip dysplasia. Your baby should be tested for hip problems soon after birth. If this does not happen sometimes, the hips can become dislocated requiring surgery in the future.

- **Mother injuries:**
 - Vaginal injuries. These can be caused by tears or cutting. Sometimes the tear can be so severe it needs suturing/stitching. There can be a delay in identifying the severity of the tear.
 - Pre and post delivery infections. These can result in early labour and problems post delivery if not properly treated.
 - Vaginal/rectal fistula's, inappropriate stitching following episiotomy.
 - Failing to treat pre-eclampsia.
 - Ante partum (before birth) and post partum (after birth) haemorrhage.

At Alsters Kelley we understand what a difficult time this is for you. We know mothers often feel responsible for what has happened. We can help guide you through the legal process finding the much need answers to why things have gone wrong.



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If you need any further information about matters in this information sheet, please do not hesitate to contact us.