

DON'T SETTLE!

*Contact NICA Before
You Settle a Malpractice Lawsuit*

Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association



NICA
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AND PHYSICIANS

IT'S THE LAW:
PARTICIPATION IN NICA CAN RESULT IN
ABATEMENT AND/OR DISMISSAL OF
MALPRACTICE LAWSUITS

*P*hysicians who participate in the NICA Plan and hospitals utilized by participating physicians are eligible for protection from malpractice awards for covered claims. In order to obtain the coverage to which you are entitled, participating physicians must contact NICA if a claim or lawsuit is filed for information on how to stop these legal proceedings.

Sometimes in the confusion that results from threatening calls and letters from plaintiffs and their attorneys, physicians may forget about the important benefits available from NICA.

Don't let this happen to you or your client! Contact NICA as soon as possible to find out how to terminate all legal proceedings related to NICA-covered injuries, and obtain the protection you deserve.



Don't be intimidated! Contact NICA for Relief from unnecessary malpractice lawsuits!

Florida physicians who participate in the NICA Plan have already made a wise decision. They've taken advantage of an innovative statewide plan that provides needed care and services to children with birth-related neurological injuries without the need for lengthy – and costly – malpractice litigation.

If an infant with covered birth-related injuries is delivered by a physician who participates in the NICA Plan, the law provides for exclusive awards from NICA. Physicians and hospitals are provided with unlimited coverage for catastrophic claims, and the child and his/her family are not entitled to compensation through malpractice lawsuits, if the injury is covered

by NICA.* NICA will not pay if any settlement is negotiated. Don't compromise your coverage by failing to notify NICA before any settlement is discussed.

NICA's supportive services for families and physicians are designed to provide the freedom to focus on patient care, as an alternative to direct involvement with costly and lengthy litigation.

NICA Can't Help If You Don't Call

Lawyers representing infants with neurological injuries and their parents have been known to make disturbing threats to even the best physicians. With the emotional stress, sometimes it's easy to overlook the fact that, if an injury is covered by the NICA Plan, the law provides for the exclusive remedy to be the NICA Plan.

It's important to remember the benefits of NICA participation, and to plan for taking advantage of NICA services before they are required. Physicians should notify their insurance companies and attorneys regarding their participation in NICA, and how the NICA Plan can provide relief from malpractice litigation. Insurance companies and lawyers should be prepared to contact the NICA Plan as one of the first steps in responding to the threat of legal proceedings against their physician clients.

Participating physicians, hospitals, and their malpractice carriers should make sure contacting NICA is included in all plans for responding to the threat of malpractice litigation.

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(*see S766.314(9)(c) for Claims Limitation)



Supportive Services for Families and Physicians



**Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury
Compensation Association**

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