

On National Concussion Awareness Day, New York Attorneys Write Open Letter To Parents Of Children Involved In Sports

PLEASANTVILLE, NEW YORK, USA, September 21, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- On Friday, September 21st, National Concussion Awareness Day® will raise awareness about the dangers and consequences of concussions through local educational events, social media, fundraisers, and expert discussions in the media.

To mark the day, nationally recognized [New York brain injury lawyers De Caro & Kaplen, LLP](#), have written an open letter to parents of children involved in sports. The letter, published on the firm's website, highlights the serious nature of concussions, the signs and symptoms, and what parents should do if they suspect their child has suffered a brain injury.

In an excerpt from the letter, Michael Kaplen, a partner in the firm, and three-term past president of the Brain Injury Association of New York State, explains a seemingly minor accident can cause serious injury to the brain but is usually invisible. According to Kaplen, "A concussion is a brain injury that must be taken seriously. Working with brain injury victims for over thirty-five years, we've seen many people just don't believe an injury to the brain could have resulted from a minor collision, when there is no loss of consciousness, or no physical contact with the skull."

Kaplen continued, "Following a concussion, individuals may appear to be normal because there are no visible signs of brain injury. But, a brain injury is not a broken bone, and brain injury victims do not always have physical symptoms."

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The best advice for any parent, coach, trainer, or teacher is, "When in doubt keep them out.""

Shana De Caro

In a poll by the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, nearly 9 out of 10 adults in the US failed to correctly define a concussion. While a study in the Journal of Athletic Training, found that 50% of concussions go unreported.

Concussion symptoms commonly include any one or more of the following: headache, confusion, difficulty remembering or paying attention, balance problems or dizziness, feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy, feeling irritable, more emotional, or "down", nausea or vomiting, sensitive to light or noise, double or blurry vision, slowed reaction time, sleep problems, or loss of consciousness.



CONCUSSIONS & SPORTS

Concussions are brain injuries and are ravaging the nation, from little leagues to professionals. As the parent of a child involved in sports, it is critical that you recognize the signs of concussion and seek medical assistance immediately.

The Facts About Concussion In Sports

- 300,000** the number of sports related concussions in the USA each year.
- 1,215** concussions were diagnosed in the NFL between 2012 and 2016.
- 25%** of concussion sufferers fail to get assessed by medical personnel.

Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy

CTE is a degenerative disease of the brain and is associated with repeated head traumas like concussions.

A study published in the medical journal JAMA identified CTE in 99% of deceased NFL players' brains that were donated to scientific research.

Signs of concussion:

- Imbalance
- Headache
- Confusion
- Memory loss
- Loss of consciousness
- Vision change
- Hearing change
- Mood change
- Fatigue
- Malaise

Call your doctor if you answer yes to any of the following:

1. Is my child acting abnormally?
2. Does my child seem more drowsy than normal?
3. Has his or her behavior changed?



Concussion in sports infographic

According to Shana De Caro, a senior partner at De Caro & Kaplen, LLP, and secretary of the Brain Injury Association of America, "Concussions can be difficult to recognize as symptoms vary from individual to individual. We recommend that parents seek professional advice and assistance anytime a concussion is suspected. Any child with a suspected concussion should not be permitted to resume athletic activities until properly evaluated by a trained professional." De Caro continued, the best advice for any parent, coach, trainer, or teacher is, "When in doubt keep them out."

National Concussion Awareness Day® is recognized on the third Friday of each September yearly.

De Caro & Kaplen's letter to parents can be found on the firm's website at <https://brainlaw.com/brain-injuries/sports-concussions/>

De Caro & Kaplen, LLP is a nationally recognized personal injury law firm concentrating their practice on representing victims of head trauma caused by car, bus, and truck collisions, pedestrians struck by vehicles, unsafe construction sites and buildings, and brain damage caused by hospital or medical malpractice. De Caro & Kaplen, LLP is the only law firm in the nation whose partners have both been elected to chair the American Association of Justice, Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group. The firm is recognized as "Preferred Lawyers" by the Brain Injury Association of America.

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