

# Medical Malpractice

My name is Alfredo Bustamante, an army veteran and a businessman that have resided in Guam for the last 16 years. Three of our 6 kids have been born on Guam.

I cannot comprehend why the government of Guam has not implemented a law that protect the people of Guam against malpractice but instead protect the doctors and clinics that commit malpractice by not allowing the patients or the family of the deceased, injured or incapacitated individual to follow for a lawsuit against a clinic, hospital or doctor that commits negligence and malpractice.

It's immoral and unfair that this individuals called "Doctor's" that went to school and endured a four-year undergraduate program, along with four years in medical school and three to seven years in a residency program to learn their specialty, cannot be held accountable for malpractice and negligence but a real estate license realtor that doesn't have a degree or a Real Estate Broker like myself that have a degree can be hold accountable in a court of law for negligence, compensatory and punitive damages. We real estate brokers have real estate insurance that protects our firms and realtors from liability or negligence, so why these doctors refuse to pay for insurance that can protect their medical practice.

Their frivolous behavior and threats of leaving the island are continuous but what these doctors don't know if that most people that can afford a airplane ticket can travel to Philippines because the service of care and knowledge is greater in the Philippines and even greater in the mainland.

In other words, it takes between 10 to 14 years to become a fully licensed doctor, so they should be highly skilled in their jobs to prevent any negligence or wrongful death, otherwise all these doctors would be careless as they know that are no consequences.

How many people have died on Guam due to negligence and malpractice and how many more people we need will die because of a negligent doctor or medical institution? How many people cannot afford arbitration? These doctors know that Guam does not have any laws that protect their people against malpractice, so why these doctors should strive for excellence and training when is no protection against negligence or malpractice

I just went thru arbitration that it lasted a year and months and I spent almost a \$100,000.00 including experts that I need it to hire. This amount does not reflect the legal fees I paid and still paying to my lawyer Mr. Jeff Cook, not to mention the emotional distress and suffering that my family and I went through.

Even though after a long process the arbitration board ruled that I won the malpractice, however I need it to go before the court to litigate the lawyer fees and other expenses which at the end it would be more money to be spent and more emotional distress to endure, so upon receiving a settlement offer from the veterinarian to part ways and each of us pay their legal fees and due to the fact that I won the malpractice case, I accepted as I didn't wanted to bleed any more financially. Imagine I did this for a dog that me and our kids loved so much, what can a father, mother or family member would like to protect and seek justice for his own. Think about it!

This distressed and financial process would not be able to be endured by any person or relative of a death or incapacitated person that is not financially stable.

I'm glad that finally 11 senators are supporting this bill to protect the people of Guam, however why the remaining 4 senators are not supporting and protecting the people that elected them. They should be ashamed of not protecting and serving the people of Guam.

These professional doctors should be held to the highest standards of duty, care and professionalism.

**Law 112 -36** A pretrial screening trial will allow the judicial system to protect the people of Guam from malpractices and negligent doctors to operate their businesses or their profession without any care or remorse of committing negligence or malpractice. We should strive for the pursuit of justice and the protection of our people.