

Legal Matters



You've been seriously injured — now what?

David MacDonald, LL.B.,
certified specialist in civil litigation,
partner Personal Injury Alliance

Q You've been seriously injured in an accident — now what?

A An accident causing a catastrophic injury requires immediate support from a hospital's most specialized trauma team. Once your condition is stable, you, your family, medical and rehabilitation professionals and specialized personal injury lawyers will create a recovery plan to help ensure the best quality of life possible.

Q How does a personal injury lawyer help?

A Personal injury lawyers will help identify the best medical and rehabilitation specialists so you enjoy the fullest recovery possible. They will also obtain funding for your needs by advocating for payment from all responsible insurers. The lawyer should be fully accessible to discuss your needs as they arise.

Q How do you find the right lawyer?

A Your serious injury case requires a personal injury lawyer who is certified by the law society as a specialist in civil litigation. Ask hospital or rehabilitation professionals if they can recommend one based on their past experiences. The law society and Personal Injury Alliance also maintain a registry of certified specialists in civil litigation. Then, meet with two to three lawyers, and ask about their knowledge of experts, and experience and expertise in and out of the courtroom. Call their references. Ask about cost, too — it should be about 15 to 20 per cent of your portion of the settlement. The better their expertise and references, and the more knowledgeable and caring they are in the interview, the greater the opportunity to engage a partner for the most successful recovery path possible. For more, visit pialaw.ca/david-macdonald.

If you've suffered a catastrophic injury

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136 injured

Train derailment kills 21 in Moscow

A subway train derailed Tuesday deep below Moscow's streets, twisting and mangling crowded rail cars at the height of the morning rush hour. At least 21 people were killed, Russian officials said, and 136 more were hospitalized, many with serious injuries.

The Moscow Metro is world-famous for its palatial interiors with mosaics, chandeliers and marble benches. Park Pobedy, where the derailment occurred, is Moscow's deepest metro station — 84 metres below the surface.

Of the 136 people hospitalized, at least 42 were in grave condition, officials said. It was unclear what caused the train to derail.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kidnapped girls

Parents and schoolmates snub Nigerian president

Parents and schoolmates of the 219 schoolgirls held captive by Boko Haram extremists refused at the last minute Tuesday to meet with Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan.

Security agents Tuesday locked the doors to the National Assembly, preventing campaigners from attending a scheduled meeting with the Senate president, said Rotimi Olawale, co-founder of Youth Hub Africa, which aims to connect young Africans. It seems the campaigners then persuaded the parents and girls not to meet with president Jonathan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A memorial continues to grow at a Parkhill home in Calgary, where Alvin and Kathryn Liknes, and their five-year-old grandson, Nathan O'Brien, went missing two weeks ago. KEN VAN DE WALLE/FOR METRO IN CALGARY

Calgary mom 'hopeful' Nathan will come home

Charges laid. Police believe that five-year-old Nathan O'Brien and his two grandparents were murdered



JEREMY NOLA
Metro in Calgary

Nathan O'Brien's mother isn't giving up hope her little boy will still come home — even as police formally charged a man in what's become a triple-murder case.

Jen O'Brien told Metro Tuesday that police haven't shared with the family any evidence they've gathered that gives them confidence five-year-old Nathan and his grandparents, Alvin and Kathryn Liknes, are dead.

"At this point, I don't know what that evidence is; nobody

Quoted

"It's not time for us to lose hope."

Jen O'Brien, mother of five-year-old Nathan O'Brien, who was staying at his grandparents' home on June 29.

knows what that evidence is," she said. "They won't tell us, but we do know that it's not time for us to lose hope."

"I can't and I won't until we know for sure."

Douglas Garland has been charged with two counts first-degree murder and one count of second-degree murder — the latter charge relates to the presumed death of Nathan. The nature of the charges indicate that police believe the accused pre-meditated the murders of the Liknes couple but not that of the five-year-old, who'd been staying over at his grandparents' Parkhill home on June 29.

When Jen O'Brien returned the following morning to retrieve her son, neither Nathan nor her parents were anywhere to be found.

"I'm so hopeful that my little boy's going to come home," she said. "I hope and pray that anybody that was involved actually speaks up and has it in their hearts because Nathan wasn't involved in this."

Police have said a violent incident occurred inside the home and that the missing trio didn't leave voluntarily.

The Parkhill home was searched during the two-week investigation, as were an Airdrie acreage owned by Garland's parents and multiple Calgary landfill sites.

On Monday, police Chief Rick Hanson broke the news that although no bodies have been recovered, his investigators have gathered enough evidence to lay the three murder charges.

Hamas rejects ceasefire, Israelis retaliate



Palestinian boys inspect the site of a family home which was damaged by an overnight Israeli missile.

LEFTERIS PITRAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel resumed its heavy bombardment of Gaza on Tuesday and warned that Hamas "would pay the price" after the Islamic militant group rejected an Egyptian truce plan and instead unleashed more rocket barrages at the Middle Eastern state.

Rocket fire from Gaza killed an Israeli man Tuesday, the first Israeli fatality in eight days of fighting. In Gaza, 197 people were killed and close to 1,500 wounded so far, Palestinian officials said, making it the deadliest Israel-Hamas confrontation in just over five years.

Hamas officials rejected

the current Egyptian plan on Tuesday, noting they weren't consulted by Cairo. Some portrayed the truce offer as an ultimatum presented to Hamas by Israel and Egypt.

The officials said the Egyptian plan offered no tangible achievements, particularly on easing the border blockade that has been enforced by Israel and Egypt to varying degrees since 2007. The Egyptian proposal had been the first attempt to end the fighting.

Hamas does not consider Egypt's current rulers — who deposed a Hamas-friendly government in Cairo a year ago — to be fair brokers.

In an evening address aired live on TV, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that after Hamas' rejection of the truce, Israel had "no choice" but to respond more forcefully.

"Hamas chose to continue fighting and will pay the price for that decision," he said.

"The siege on Gaza must be broken, and the people of Gaza should live freely like other people of the world," Moussa Abu Marzouk, a Hamas official, told the Lebanese TV channel Al-Mayadeen, adding that there should be a "new equation" in place to prevent war. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS