

Amputation Injuries

The loss of a limb as a result of an injury is one of the most catastrophic losses a person can suffer. Fortunately, however, there have been tremendous advancements in the medical care and rehabilitation of amputees over the last 25 years. Surgical techniques with regard to the initial amputation and subsequent revision surgeries have improved significantly. New surgical procedures, such as the "Ertl" procedure for below the knee amputees, is receiving increased attention. Advancements in the field of prosthetics have been particularly dramatic. We now have artificial limbs made of lighter more resilient materials that enhance function and comfort. In addition, new techniques regarding the molding of prosthetic sockets have been developed so that these sockets are more pliable and comfortable, thus enabling the amputee to wear the prosthetic devices for longer periods of time and achieve greater function and mobility. Prosthetic legs such as the "C-leg" have been developed along with other prosthetics using computerized parts.

The problem, however, is that state of the art prosthetic devices and associated prosthetics care can be very expensive. Trauma victims oftentimes are denied access to this high level prosthetic care by insurance companies who will only pay for cheaper, more outdated products and services. For example, in recent years, the *Sinas Dramis Law Firm* has been involved in several cases on behalf of amputees where auto no-fault insurance companies denied payment of higher end prosthetic products and services because the charges were not "reasonable" within the meaning of the Michigan No-Fault Law. In each of these legal cases, the *Sinas Dramis Law Firm* successfully represented the amputees and was able to achieve full funding for the prosthetic devices in question. However, no-fault insurers continue to question amputee claims and oftentimes put pressure on the amputee to settle for cheaper products and services in order to save the insurance company money. For these reasons, it is very important that amputees fully understand their rights under the law and aggressively pursue those rights so that they will not become victimized by insurance companies that care only about costs.