

# Pennsylvania Slip & Fall Claim Guide

Protect your rights after a premises injury

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Free Guide — Updated 2026

## 1. What to Do After a Slip & Fall

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- Seek medical attention immediately — document all injuries
- Report the incident to the property owner or manager before leaving
- Request a copy of any incident report that is filed
- Photograph the hazard, your injuries, your footwear, and the surrounding area
- Get names and contact info of witnesses
- Preserve the clothing and shoes you were wearing

*Important: Conditions can be repaired quickly. Return with a witness to photograph if possible, or ask an attorney to send a spoliation letter to preserve evidence.*

## 2. Proving Liability

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To win a slip and fall case in Pennsylvania, you must prove the property owner was negligent. This requires showing:

- The owner knew or should have known about the hazardous condition (actual or constructive notice)
- The owner failed to fix it or warn you
- The hazard directly caused your injury

### Types of Visitors and Duty of Care

Invitees (customers, guests): Highest duty — owner must inspect and fix hazards. Licensees (social guests): Must warn of known dangers. Trespassers: Lowest duty — only intentional harm barred.

## 3. Comparative Negligence in PA

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Pennsylvania follows modified comparative negligence with a 51% bar. This means:

- You can recover as long as you are less than 51% at fault
- Your award is reduced by your percentage of fault
- Common defense: the hazard was "open and obvious" — meaning a reasonable person would have seen it

*Insurance companies will try to assign you as much fault as possible to reduce your settlement.*

## 4. Government Property

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If you were injured on government-owned property (sidewalk, public building, school), special rules apply in Pennsylvania:

- You must file a Notice of Claim within 6 months of the injury
- Failure to file the notice may permanently bar your claim
- Government immunity rules limit what you can recover

*If a government entity is involved, contact an attorney immediately — the 6-month clock starts at the date of injury.*

## 5. What Affects Your Settlement

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- Severity and permanency of injuries
- Total medical bills and future medical costs
- Lost wages and lost earning capacity
- Strength of liability evidence (photos, witnesses, incident report)
- Whether the property owner had prior notice of the hazard
- Your percentage of comparative fault

## 6. How YourMedLegal Can Help

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YourMedLegal connects slip and fall victims with experienced premises liability attorneys in PA, NJ, and DE — completely free.

- Free attorney matching — no upfront cost
- Attorneys work on contingency — no fee unless you win
- We also connect you with doctors for injury treatment

Visit [yourmedlegal.com](https://yourmedlegal.com) or call (641) 348-4545 to get your free case review today.