

What Georgia Parents Should Do After a Daycare Injury

The Steps You Take Now Can Make All the Difference Later

The moment you find out your child was hurt at daycare, everything else stops. Your first instinct is to get to your child, find out what happened, and make sure they're okay. That instinct is exactly right. But once the immediate crisis settles, the decisions you make in the hours and days that follow can have a serious impact on your child's health, your family's legal rights, and your ability to hold the responsible party accountable.

At the [Law Offices of Gary Martin Hays & Associates, P.C.](#), we've guided Georgia families through this process for more than 30 years. The families who protect their cases best are the ones who act quickly, document everything, and get legal guidance before the facility and its insurance company have a chance to shape the narrative. Here's what you need to do.

Immediate Steps at a Glance

When a child is injured at daycare, time matters. Use this as a starting point, then read through each step carefully to understand why it matters and what it involves.

- **Immediately:** Seek medical attention for your child. Even injuries that appear minor should be evaluated by a medical professional, as serious conditions like [traumatic brain injuries](#) don't always produce obvious symptoms right away.
- **Same Day:** Document the injury with photos and detailed written notes. Photograph all visible injuries and write down everything the facility told you while the details are still fresh.
- **Same Day:** Request a copy of the incident report from the facility. Read it carefully and note any inconsistencies between the written account and what you were told verbally.
- **Within 24 Hours:** Report the injury to [Georgia DECAL](#). Filing a complaint triggers an official investigation and creates a state record that can become part of the evidence in a civil claim.
- **Within 48 Hours:** Preserve all communication with the daycare. Save every text, email, and voicemail, and avoid giving recorded statements to the facility's insurance company without speaking to a lawyer first.
- **As Soon As Possible:** [Consult a Georgia daycare injury lawyer](#). Surveillance footage and other critical evidence can disappear within days, and early legal guidance can make the difference in what your attorney is able to build your case around.

Get Your Child Medical Attention First

Nothing on your to-do list matters more than your child's health. Even if the injury appears minor, get your child evaluated by a medical professional as soon as possible. Some of the most serious injuries in young children — traumatic brain injuries, internal injuries, and spinal trauma — don't produce obvious symptoms right away. A child who seems alert and responsive after a fall can still have a significant injury that won't become apparent for hours.

Going to the emergency room or urgent care also creates a medical record that documents the injury, its timing, and its severity. That record becomes one of the most important pieces of evidence in any future legal claim. Make sure you tell the treating physician exactly what the daycare told you happened, and ask for copies of all records, diagnoses, and discharge instructions before you leave.

Document the Injury Immediately

As soon as your child is safe and receiving care, start documenting everything you can. Take clear photographs of any visible injuries — bruises, cuts, swelling, or marks — and continue photographing over the following days as the injury develops or changes. Injuries often look worse 24 to 48 hours after they occur, and that progression matters.

Write down everything you remember about the day, including:

- The time you were contacted and what you were told
- The name of the staff member who spoke with you
- The explanation the facility gave for how the injury occurred
- Any statements made by your child about what happened
- The names of any other parents or witnesses who may have seen something

Memory fades quickly under stress. Getting these details in writing while they're fresh protects you from gaps later.

Request the Incident Report

Georgia daycare facilities are required to document injuries that occur in their care. Ask the facility for a copy of the incident report before you leave. Read it carefully and compare it to what you were told verbally. If the written account doesn't match the explanation you received, or if the facility refuses to provide a copy, that inconsistency is significant and should be shared with an attorney.

Don't sign anything the facility asks you to sign without having it reviewed by a lawyer first. Some facilities will present documents to parents in the aftermath of an injury that are designed to limit the facility's liability. You are not obligated to sign anything on the spot.

Report the Injury to Georgia DECAL

If your child suffered a serious injury at a licensed Georgia daycare, you have the right to report it to the [Department of Early Care and Learning \(DECAL\)](#). DECAL is the state agency responsible for licensing and regulating childcare facilities, and it has the authority to investigate complaints, conduct inspections, and take enforcement action against facilities that violate safety standards.

Filing a complaint with DECAL does two important things. First, it triggers an official investigation that may uncover violations, prior incidents, or patterns of negligence that you wouldn't otherwise have access to. Second, it creates a state record of your complaint that can become part of the evidence in a civil claim. You can file a complaint through DECAL's website or by calling their office directly.

Preserve All Communication With the Daycare

From the moment you learn of the injury, save every text message, email, voicemail, and written note you receive from the facility. Do not delete anything, even if it seems unimportant. Screenshot text threads and back them up somewhere safe. If the facility reaches out to apologize, explain what happened, or offer any kind of resolution, those communications can be highly relevant to your case.

At the same time, be careful about what you say to the facility going forward. Keep your responses factual and avoid making statements that could be interpreted as accepting their explanation or releasing them from responsibility. If the facility's insurance company contacts you directly, do not give a recorded statement without speaking to a lawyer first.

Understand Georgia's Legal Timeline

Georgia's statute of limitations for [personal injury claims](#) is generally two years from the date of the injury. However, cases involving injured minors carry different rules that can affect that timeline in ways that aren't always straightforward. Waiting too long to consult an attorney, even if you're unsure whether you have a case, can limit your options or cost you critical evidence that disappears over time.

Surveillance footage, in particular, is often recorded over within days or weeks. Staff schedules, inspection records, and internal communications may be harder to obtain the longer you wait. A Georgia daycare injury lawyer can send a preservation letter to the facility early in the process, putting them on notice that evidence must be retained. That single step can make a significant difference in what your attorney is able to build your case around.

Why Early Legal Guidance Matters

Many Georgia parents hesitate to contact a lawyer after a daycare injury because they aren't sure the situation is serious enough, or because they feel uncomfortable pursuing legal action

against a place their child attended. Both of those feelings are completely understandable. But consulting an attorney costs you nothing and gives you a clear picture of where you stand.

A daycare negligence attorney in Georgia will evaluate the circumstances of the injury, identify whether the facility's actions or failures meet the legal standard for negligence, and advise you on the strength of your potential claim — all before you commit to anything. At the Law Offices of Gary Martin Hays & Associates, P.C., that initial consultation is always free, and you pay nothing unless we win your case.

The sooner you have that conversation, the better positioned your family will be to pursue the accountability your child deserves.

Georgia's Power Law Firm Is Ready to Help

Your child trusted the adults at that daycare to keep them safe. When that trust was broken, you deserve answers, and you deserve a legal team that knows how to get them. The Law Offices of Gary Martin Hays & Associates, P.C. has been standing up for injured Georgia families since 1993, and we know how to take on daycare facilities and the insurance companies that protect them.

If your child was hurt at a Georgia daycare, [contact us today](#) for a free consultation. We'll listen, we'll answer your questions honestly, and we'll help you understand every option available to your family. You pay nothing unless we win.