



east greenwich
spine & sport

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To Whom it May Concern;

We at East Greenwich Spine & Sport appreciate the trust you give us to manage your medical issues. We honor our physician/patient relationship and share your goal of pursuing health. You are receiving this letter because we have been asked to provide legal consultation work regarding your case.

Occasionally, lawyers contact us requesting input on legal issues related to your medical care. Our doctors are experts in medicolegal matters and lawyers throughout the region consult us for our opinions. These requests pertain to two general types of patients, those whom we have never met and those who are existing patients. When legal issues are addressed by a doctor whom a person has never met, this is called an Impartial Medical Evaluation or I.M.E. No physician/patient relationship is established intentionally to allow the doctor to be objective and for patients to keep the relationship with their own medical provider separate from their legal issues, which can be complex. For our own patients, we must try to be as objective as possible and present all the facts that we have, whether they are helpful or detrimental to a case. We believe that we are patient advocates, but sometimes portions of a patient's case may be uncomplimentary to their legal claim. This discrepancy between what we wish for our patients and how their legal matters play out can create difficulties. It has happened that patients are very satisfied with our medical care, but our physician/patient relationship suffers after we are asked to comment on legal matters.

While legal issues can be intertwined with your medical conditions, our relationship with lawyers is separate from any physician/patient relationship. A chart review, full case summary and dictation followed by preparation and distribution of documents can be a long, involved process. Preparing opinions to hold up to legal scrutiny and cross-examination in a court of law can be time consuming. Our rate for this contracted legal work is competitive at \$400/hour.

Fortunately for your lawyer, we keep very thorough and detailed medical documentation in the event that this kind of information is needed. We send out hundreds of medical records per month. The negligible rate for this is governed by state and federal regulations; we make no money from this service. With a few exceptions, all of what a lawyer needs to represent you is available in these files. Requests for medicolegal opinions are usually standard letters asking for a complete review of information that is already contained in your medical records. You may be able to help control these costs by having your lawyer send us a request that is specific to your personal case and asks us to comment only on the few issues that are pertinent. We are certainly willing to provide a more complete review at the above rate if necessary.

We understand that situations requiring the services of a lawyer are often stressful and represent a challenging period of your life. We want the best for all our patients and remain committed first and foremost to helping you find health.