



Farming Accidents *

Health and safety is important in all workplaces – manufacturing, schools, hospitals, offices, retail and the farm yard.

Agriculture is a huge part of the Irish economy. It only accounts for six percent of the workforce but more than 50% of workplace fatalities occurred on farms in 2016. Most farm fatalities involve accidents with livestock or machinery and involve both the young and the elderly.

Ensuring a safe working environment and reducing the risk of injuries in the workplace has increased significantly over the last few years. This ethos must be translated into the agricultural industry in light of the unfortunate fatalities of 2016. The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005 allows farmers with three or less employees to comply with the Code of Practice for Agriculture as an alternative to preparing a safety statement. It aims to improve the level of safety and health among all persons engaged in the agricultural sector – farmers, family members, employees, service providers and other persons. It sets out the risks associated with the industry and how to manage these risks.

Many farmers are self-employed with the farm being run by family. They can also be the primary breadwinners of a family. When a person dies because of the wrongful act of another person, you can bring a claim for the wrongful death of the deceased. When a loved one dies, particularly in tragic circumstances, talking to a solicitor and bringing a claim is generally the last thing on a person's mind. However, bringing a claim for fatal injuries / wrongful death may help ease the financial burden on a family after the death of a family member. If a wrongful death claim is not an option, farm insurance may include personal accident insurance cover and you should speak to your insurance company about this cover.

The primary goal should be to prevent injuries, including fatal injuries, on farms and to see a reduction in the fatalities on farms in 2017.

***Before acting or refraining from acting on anything in this guide, legal advice should be sought from a solicitor.**

****In contentious cases, a solicitor may not charge fees or expenses as a portion or percentage of any award of settlement.**