



Press release

New York, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018

## On National Concussion Awareness Day, New York Attorneys Write Open Letter To Parents Of Children Involved In Sports

On Friday, September 21st, National Concussion Awareness Day® will raise awareness about the dangers and consequences of concussions through local educational events, social media, fundraisers, and expert discussions in the media.

To mark the day, nationally recognized New York brain injury lawyers De Caro & Kaplen, LLP, have written an open letter to parents of children involved in sports. The letter, published on the firm's website, highlights the serious nature of concussions, the signs and symptoms, and what parents should do if they suspect their child has suffered a brain injury.

In an excerpt from the letter, Michael Kaplen, a partner in the firm, and three-term past president of the Brain Injury Association of New York State, explains a seemingly minor accident can cause serious injury to the brain but is usually invisible. According to Kaplen, "A concussion is a brain injury that must be taken seriously. Working with brain injury victims for over thirty-five years, we've seen many people just don't believe an injury to the brain could have resulted from a minor collision, when there is no loss of consciousness, or no physical contact with the skull."

Kaplen continued, "Following a concussion, individuals may appear to be normal because there are no visible signs of brain injury. But, a brain injury is not a broken bone, and brain injury victims do not always have physical symptoms."

In a poll by the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, nearly 9 out of 10 adults in the US failed to correctly define a concussion. While a study in the Journal of Athletic Training, found that 50% of concussions go unreported.

Concussion symptoms commonly include any one or more of the following: headache, confusion, difficulty remembering or paying attention, balance problems or dizziness, feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy, feeling irritable, more emotional, or "down", nausea or vomiting, sensitive to light or noise, double or blurry vision, slowed reaction time, sleep problems, or loss of consciousness.

According to Shana De Caro, a senior partner at De Caro & Kaplen, LLP, and secretary of the Brain Injury Association of America, “Concussions can be difficult to recognize as symptoms vary from individual to individual. We recommend that parents seek professional advice and assistance anytime a concussion is suspected. Any child with a suspected concussion should not be permitted to resume athletic activities until properly evaluated by a trained professional.” De Caro continued, the best advice for any parent, coach, trainer, or teacher is, “When in doubt keep them out.”

National Concussion Awareness Day® is recognized on the third Friday of each September yearly.

De Caro & Kaplen’s letter to parents can be found on the firm’s website at <https://brainlaw.com/brain-injuries/sports-concussions/>

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For further information please contact Michael V. Kaplen by email [michael@brainlaw.com](mailto:michael@brainlaw.com) or telephone (914) 747 4410

### **About De Caro & Kaplen, LLP**

De Caro & Kaplen, LLP is a nationally recognized personal injury law firm concentrating their practice on representing victims of head trauma caused by car, bus, and truck collisions, pedestrians struck by vehicles, unsafe construction sites and buildings, and brain damage caused by hospital or medical malpractice. De Caro & Kaplen, LLP is the only law firm in the nation whose partners have both been elected to chair the American Association of Justice, Traumatic Brain Injury Litigation Group. The firm is recognized as “Preferred Lawyers” by the Brain Injury Association of America.