

Protecting South Carolina's Rights

Why Joint and Several Liability is Vital for Victims

Understanding Joint and Several Liability

Joint and several liability ensures that when you are injured by more than one party those who are found responsible will compensate you for your losses. This law puts the burden of allocating damages where it belongs - on the wrongdoers.

*Imagine a family living in an apartment building collapses due to multiple failures. The collapse leaves several families injured, homeless, and grieving lost loved ones. An investigation reveals that the **property owner** neglected to fix known structural problems despite complaints, the **construction company** cut corners during renovation, and the **engineering firm** approved the safety inspection without actually visiting the building.*

*If the construction company or the engineering firm is minimally insured, the property owner can be held responsible for the full amount of damages. Without joint and several liability, the victims would bear most of the financial burden, even though this accident was through no fault of their own. Joint and several liability is a **protection** that allows families to rebuild their lives by ensuring that responsible parties are held fully accountable.*

How Will Reform Affect the Compensation Victims Receive?

Reform would replace joint and several liability, meaning victims could only recover the portion each defendant is responsible for, even if that means going uncompensated if one party is unable to pay.

Support Victims in South Carolina, Not Corporate Interests

Rejecting these reforms protects our community and our neighbors and upholds the principle that the injured deserve full justice. Let's ensure victims' rights remain a priority. Protecting joint and several liability is about keeping our legal system fair, effective, and compassionate.

Why Joint and Several Liability Matters



Ensures Full Compensation

Joint and several liability allows victims to recover full damages from all liable parties, ensuring financial support even if one party cannot pay.



Empowers our Jury System:

Citizens currently have the right to serve on a jury and participate in deciding cases, a fundamental right that is now under threat from proposed reforms.



Protects Vulnerable Families:

Victims and families suffering from injuries, medical bills, or lost wages are protected, regardless of one party's ability to pay.



For more information call the South Carolina Association for Justice (SCAJ) at (803) 799-5097.