Equine Injuries

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Overview

A signed liability waiver does not mean you have no legal options after a serious riding accident. That is the first thing most prospective clients need to hear, because by the time they contact an attorney, they have already been told by the stable, the trail operator, or a well-meaning friend that the waiver they signed eliminates any claim. It often does not. Massachusetts equine activity liability law provides certain protections for equine professionals, but those protections have defined limits. When a stable operator fails to match a rider to an appropriate horse, neglects equipment maintenance, or provides inadequate supervision, the resulting injuries may give rise to a viable negligence claim regardless of what the waiver says. An equine injury lawyer who understands these distinctions can evaluate whether a horse riding injury qualifies for compensation that the stable operator never expected to pay. Cohen Cleary represents individuals injured in horse-related accidents across Massachusetts and Rhode Island, helping them understand their rights and pursue fair compensation.

How We Help After a Horse Accident

A horse accident attorney handling equine cases must understand both the legal framework governing equine activities and the operational realities of stables, riding schools, and trail operations. Our attorneys evaluate each case by examining the specific circumstances of the injury: the rider's experience level, the horse's known temperament and history, the condition of equipment provided, the adequacy of supervision, and the language and enforceability of any signed waiver.

We pursue claims arising from a range of equine injury scenarios:

- Riders thrown from horses due to improper matching of rider skill to horse temperament
- Horse kick injury and bite cases involving known-aggressive or poorly managed animals
- Equipment failures, including saddle defects, broken stirrups, or improperly fitted tack
- Trail ride injuries resulting from inadequate route assessment or guide supervision
- Injuries to spectators, stable visitors, or handlers caused by negligent containment

Identifying the responsible parties and available insurance coverage is a critical early step. Stable liability policies, horse owner liability coverage, and in some cases, homeowner's insurance may all provide avenues for recovery. Many clients are surprised to learn that multiple insurance sources may apply to a single incident, including policies the stable operator may not voluntarily disclose. We investigate every potential source of coverage so that the claim reflects the full scope of available compensation.

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Why Choose Cohen Cleary

At Cohen Cleary, our practice teams combine deep subject-matter experience with disciplined execution and responsive client service. We do not take a one-size-fits-all approach. Every matter is handled with careful preparation, clear communication, and a strategy tailored to the client's goals and the realities of the forum.

Clients choose Cohen Cleary because we deliver:

Practice-Focused Legal Experience

Our attorneys work in defined practice areas, allowing us to develop practical insight into the legal, procedural, and regulatory nuances that matter most in each case. This focus allows us to anticipate issues, avoid unnecessary delays, and position matters for efficient resolution.

Clear Guidance and Proactive Communication

We prioritize clarity at every stage. Clients receive straightforward explanations of their options, timely updates on developments, and practical advice grounded in real-world outcomes.

Strategic Advocacy with Trial Readiness

Whether a matter calls for negotiation, mediation, or litigation, our attorneys prepare every case with discipline and foresight. We pursue efficient resolution when possible and are fully prepared to advocate aggressively when necessary to protect our clients' interests.

Regional Knowledge and Local Presence

With offices throughout Massachusetts and experience across New England courts and agencies, we bring local insight and regional reach to every matter.

Client-Centered Service

We treat every matter with urgency and respect. Our clients rely on us for responsive service, sound judgment, and steady counsel through complex legal challenges.

In our Personal Injury work, this approach helps clients navigate equine liability claims with clarity, efficiency, and confidence.

Our Approach to Equine Liability Claims

Massachusetts has an equine activity liability statute that provides certain protections for equine professionals, but those protections are narrower than most horse farm operators believe. Negligence in supervision, equipment maintenance, or matching a rider to a horse appropriate for their skill level falls outside the statutory shield. We tell our clients that this distinction is the foundation of most viable equine injury claims. Our approach focuses on establishing exactly where the equine professional's conduct crossed from inherent risk into actionable negligence, using veterinary records, stable operating procedures, instructor qualifications, and witness accounts to build a case grounded in specific facts rather than general assertions.

Service Equine Injury Victims Throughout New England

Cohen Cleary represents equine injury victims from offices in Taunton and Plymouth,

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Massachusetts. Our attorneys handle horse accident and stable negligence cases in courts throughout southeastern Massachusetts, Bristol County, Plymouth County, and Norfolk County, as well as in Rhode Island. The firm also has the capacity to serve clients with equine injury claims across New England. As a Massachusetts equine injury attorney team with familiarity in the local courts where these cases are filed, including the procedural expectations of Superior Court departments handling personal injury matters, we move efficiently from investigation through resolution.

Contact Cohen Cleary's Massachusetts Equine Injury Lawyers

If you or a family member has been injured in a horse-related accident, contact Cohen Cleary for a consultation. We will review the circumstances of the incident, evaluate any waivers you signed, and provide a candid assessment of your legal options. Call our offices in Taunton or Plymouth to schedule a meeting.

Frequently Asked Questions About Equine Accidents

Can I still sue if I signed a liability waiver before my riding accident?

Possibly. Massachusetts courts do not treat liability waivers as absolute bars to recovery. A waiver may be unenforceable if it is poorly drafted, if it fails to clearly communicate the specific risks involved, or if the injury resulted from the operator's negligence rather than the inherent risks of equine activity. Each waiver must be evaluated on its own terms.

What duties does a stable owner owe to riders?

Stable owners and equine professionals have obligations that include matching riders to horses appropriate for their skill level, maintaining equipment in safe working condition, providing adequate supervision, and disclosing known behavioral issues with specific horses. A failure in any of these areas can constitute negligence.

Does the Massachusetts equine activity liability statute protect all horse-related businesses?

The statute provides limited protection for certain inherent risks of equine activities, but it does not shield operators from liability for their own negligence. If a stable operator failed to exercise reasonable care in supervision, instruction, equipment, or horse selection, the statutory protections likely do not apply.

What should I look for in a horseback riding accident attorney?

Look for an attorney with specific experience in equine liability cases, familiarity with the Massachusetts equine activity statute, and a track record of challenging liability waivers. A stable injury lawyer who understands the operational standards of the equine industry can identify negligence that a general practice attorney might miss.

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