

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ann Costello. I have worked for the West Allis West Milwaukee School District for the past 18 years as a Special Education Assistant. On March 27th 2012 I sustained an injury in the city of West Allis. I was job shadowing two special needs students in the community, delivering flyers to the area businesses for Diane, head of the Business Improvement District. I was walking with the students and fell in front of SteakHouse 100 on 73rd and Greenfield Avenue.

The streets are lined with trees that are set in the sidewalk. The area of the sidewalk I fell on was the narrowest area of sidewalk on the block due to the tree planting. The dirt around the tree in that area was not flush with the sidewalk. The edge of my left foot rolled into the lower area. As I fell my body was twisted and turned facing the street. I hit the red brick section hard on my right hip and ribs.

I was taken via ambulance to West Allis Memorial Hospital. It was determined I had a pubic rami fracture and costochondritis. It was later determined I also sustained a second pelvic fracture and a labrum tear in my right hip. All the injuries were excruciating and the most pain I have felt in my life.

I left the hospital on crutches, unable to drive, and barely able to walk, or enter my condo which is on the second floor. My sister happened to be visiting me from out of town and was able to stay for one week. I could not work at this time in any capacity. I had also just accepted a part time position as a hospice CNA. I had to postpone starting the job which I needed desperately to meet my financial obligations. Since I am my sole provider this caused me extreme financial hardship that has affected me ever since.

I returned to the doctor the first week following the fall, to be re-evaluated because the rib injury was so painful and I had difficulty breathing. The x-rays were negative for fracture but the costochondritis is as or more painful. It took a very long time for the injury to get better causing intense pain with any movement especially trying to be able to get out of bed or to stand up. I had many months of physical therapy, saw an orthopedic surgeon, a hip specialist for a labrum tear and an urogynecologist for an overactive bladder most likely caused from the trauma of the fall which affected the nerves. I had to return back to the West Allis School District on light duty. I worked in the school office. I had to sit on a pillow and was in great pain. I would at times get up to stretch but mostly because I had to excuse myself because I was in tears constantly due to the extreme pain. I found out that I had a second fracture in a follow up appointment on the bottom of the pelvic ring. It was missed on the initial x-rays. There is also a chance I may need a surgery for the labrum tear in the future.

I eventually got back to both jobs, but not without problems. I still had pain and had to be very careful because the pelvic fracture takes a year to heal and I was advised that another fall would cause more fractures.

I waited the three year time frame for this claim because I have had ongoing issues and follow up with doctors and more physical therapy. I am not the same as I was prior to this horrific injury. My background, skills, and passion are in the caregiver business. It is where all my experience lies. It is impossible at this stage in my life to change careers. I must continue to work part time as a CNA to take care of my finances. I have gone back to physical therapy for back and sacroiliac joint pain issues from the fall. The physical therapist has had to do many adjustments to relieve my pain due to my pelvis and hip not being aligned. The therapist did state to me this would be common with the injuries I sustained and the hard impact of the fall.

I believe the tree placement created potential trip hazards and the maintenance to the area was not sufficient to avoid an injury of this magnitude.

As seen in picture A the width of sidewalk at my fall site is much narrower than the rest of the block. The day of the injury I had two students walking at my side.

As seen in picture B there is not a fence, structure, enough soil or wood chips surrounding the tree to prevent a fall.

Picture C is where I fell. As you can plainly see it is lower than the sidewalk.

I called the city the week of the accident and the person I spoke to agreed and there were wood chips put down within two weeks of the incident.

I am asking for the maximum allowance of \$50,000 due to the extent of the injuries, the continuing problems I'm experiencing and the permanent effects both physically and emotionally.

I have enclosed medical records for your review.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

*Ann Costello 3-23-15*

Ann Costello  
1650 South Carriage Lane  
New Berlin, WI 53151  
414-975-7602  
anecostello@gmail.com