ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION - NEW LAW IN CASE OF A MEDICAL ACCIDENT DURING TREATMENT

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The Law of March, 31, 2010 about compensation for accidents during medical treatment was the result of a long discussion in the Belgian parliament. A Fund of Medical Accidents was established. What are the advantages? It is beneficial to all parties (Victim, practitioner, insurance company).

The burden of proof is easier for the patient because the Fund will collect all relevant documents. It will protect also the practitioner because there will be no negative publicity or a damaged reputation. The entire procedure is gratis.

It is a to-way system because the Victim can make a choice between a Court procedure or this Law. The decision of the Fund is only a motivated advice and not binding. The procedure should be finished within 6 months. It includes also a possibility to get a "no fault" compensation if certain conditions are fulfilled. It may become the preferred procedure in the future for medical accidents.

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