

## WHAT IS MESOTHELIOMA? WHY DO I NEED AN ATTORNEY?

You have probably seen advertising from attorneys seeking clients who are ill with mesothelioma. Szaferman Lakind represents clients with this disease. What is mesothelioma and why are those with it encouraged to contact an attorney?

Mesothelioma is a type of cancer caused by asbestos exposure. There are two kinds of mesothelioma: pleural which effects the lining of the lungs and peritoneal which effects the lining of the abdomen.

Asbestos is a very strong, heat resistant mineral fiber that was commonly used in many products, including floor tiles, certain adhesives, high temperature insulation and brake linings. It has been in use for over 2,000 years. Use of asbestos in insulation for steam pipes, kilns and furnaces became more popular as industries grew in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Many workers were exposed to asbestos when building, repairing or serving on Navy vessels during World War II. Many construction workers became exposed during the post-war building boom. Workers' families were also exposed when workers came home with work clothes contaminated with asbestos fibers.

Starting in 1917, medical studies showed abnormal rates of lung problems in towns where asbestos was mined. Asbestosis (breathing impairment caused by scarring of the lungs due to asbestos fibers) was first diagnosed in 1924. Over the years, more studies linked asbestos exposure to health problems. Asbestos exposure is a known risk factor in lung cancer and believed to be the only cause of mesothelioma.

A lawyer can help recover compensation in several ways.

- Identifying responsible parties;
- Developing an exposure history;
- Assisting with the filing of claims against trust funds established for those with mesothelioma; and
- Litigating cases for compensation to the victim and his or her family.

Someone diagnosed with mesothelioma needs to take action to protect their rights and their family's rights. If you find yourself in need of help, call **Attorney Bob Lytle, 609.275.0400 x 248** so we can discuss how we can help you.