

# Q: What is the driving force behind doctors leaving their practice in Northeastern Ohio?



## A: Medical Liability

### DID YOU KNOW?

- In Northeastern Ohio, medical liability insurance rates are among the highest in the nation.
- Doctors in Northeastern Ohio are forced to pay outrageously expensive liability premiums due to lawsuit abuse and the high cost of defending against claims.
- Personal injury lawyers have a 70% error rate as 7 out of 10 medical liability cases are dropped, dismissed or found in favor of the doctor.
- Only 1.3% of all claims result in a jury award.
- The cost of practicing medicine has escalated dramatically in recent years due to higher premiums for medical liability insurance, soaring jury awards, and lower reimbursements from insurance companies.
- This crisis is forcing your doctor to cut back on staff and services, causing certain specialists to limit their care in emergency room settings, and driving physicians out of the area.

The medical liability crisis is leading to fewer doctors, a reduction in quality of care and damage to the doctor/patient relationship.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Discuss this issue with your doctor – ask questions.
- Support changes to Ohio's liability laws to make them more fair and reasonable.
- The Ohio Supreme Court has the last word on laws that could resolve this crisis. Please remember that when you go to the polls and vote in November.
- Contact the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland/Northern Ohio Medical Association (AMC/NOMA) at (216) 520-1000 or visit [www.amcnoma.org](http://www.amcnoma.org) for more details.