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DIRTY NEEDLES

Huntington Truck Driver "Pierced in Back" with Needle in Texas Motel

Reported by: [▶ Bryant Somerville](#)
Videographer: Jarod Herrell
Web Producer: Bryant Somerville
Updated: April 9, 2009 10:22pm

"It's scary, and what's even scarier to me is that it can happen to any of us," Mark Underwood said.

Underwood says his client, Huntington truck driver Douglas Hodge, is scared for his life after one motel visit that he will never forget.

According to a complaint, as Hodge was getting ready for bed on the night of March 17, 2007 at a Super 8 motel in Baytown, Texas, he layed down on the bed and was pierced in his back by a dirty, used, hypodermic needle.

In fact, Underwood says when Hodge pulled back the covers there were three or four more needles in his mattress.

"Everytime he climbs into bed, he's scared," Underwood said. "He's worried if something like this might happen to him again."

Now the question becomes who should have to pay for Hodge's expenses and mental anguish?

Already, Hodge's medical bill is almost \$3,000, and according to doctors, he will have to have numerous other blood tests throughout this year to test for diseases like HIV and Hepatitis. Underwood calls it straight negligence on the motel's part, and because of that he says Super 8 should foot the bill.

"I would think if you're negligent and have needles buried deep down in the covers, you should be responsible to pay," he said.

Other truck drivers, like Mitch Cox, agree and say as much time as he spends on the road...a clean bed is not asking too much.

"You should expect them to be clean all the way...sheets, mattresses and all that stuff," Cox said.

And now Cox is learning from this situation, and says he'll be more alert after he checks-in to his hotel room from here on out.

According to Underwood, Super 8 is refusing to pay Hodge's medical expenses, and as a result, Underwood says the case will probably be given to a jury in the near future.

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