

GLASS SLIDING DOOR

Expert Investigates Laceration

A young girl was visiting the apartment of her uncle and cousins when she leaned against the glass of a sliding door that led to the exterior patio. The glass broke into large shards that fell onto her. She was severely lacerated. The glass was original to the door, which was installed prior to the enactment of safety glazing requirements in building and property maintenance codes.

A Robson Forensic architect was retained to determine the requirements for glazing in the subject door, and if the apartment complex owner's actions were reasonable in not replacing or protecting the glass.

Our investigation determined that the apartment owner had replaced other similar openings with safety glazing, and that they were aware of the need for tempered glass in doors like the one where the girl was injured. We cited a history of standard and code development going back to the 1960's, and were able to establish the standard of care for glass safety that included many sources, including the housing industry.

We were able to show that even if they chose to leave the existing glass in place and replace it on a maintenance schedule for the entire complex, they could have inexpensively applied a film to it so it wouldn't break apart into dagger-shaped pieces and cause severe injury.

Contact the [Premises Safety](#) team at Robson Forensic for information on how we can aid in your investigation.