

## **Jury Finds for Plaintiff in Hospital Warnings Case**

A patient fell and was injured when he stepped through an open door from a hospital cafeteria onto a patio. Unlike all of the other doorways the patient encountered in the hospital, there was a single step down from the cafeteria to the patio. The hospital was aware of the hazard created by the single step change in elevation and affixed a “Caution Watch Your Step” sign to the door itself. However, patients and visitors approaching the single step change in elevation were not afforded the benefit of the warning when the door itself was open.

In this case, the door was being held open by another visitor, preventing the plaintiff from seeing the sign. The hospital should have realized that this was a possibility and located an effective sign on the glass panel adjacent to the door so it would be viewable regardless of the door’s position. A jury found in favor of the patient and agreed that the hospital failed to provide adequate warnings regarding the single step change in elevation and that this created an unreasonably dangerous condition that was the cause of the patient’s fall.

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