



**YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS**  
**J. ERICK SANTANA, ESQ.**

**WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE ATTACKED BY A DOG**

If you, or someone you know, have been attacked by a dog, you have the legal right to receive compensation for your injuries and suffering.

In Florida, there is a legal statute that states that owners of dogs are liable for any damage done by their dogs to a person or to any animal. Along with the State Statute, there are usually County Ordinances that state that the owner or keeper of a vicious dog shall at all time ensure that the dog is securely confined indoors or confined in an enclosure as defined herein. At any time that a vicious dog is not so confined, the dog shall be muzzled in such a manner as to prevent it from biting or injuring any person or animal, and kept on a leash with the owner or custodian in attendance.

If you or someone you know is attacked by a dog, medical care is the first priority and, therefore, police and paramedics should be called immediately. While on the telephone with the police you should ask them to contact animal control to come out to the scene to capture the dog, preventing any further harm.

After receiving the proper medical care, contact an attorney that handles personal injury cases. The attorney's office should proceed to contact the owner of the dog and to obtain homeowner's insurance information.

In many cases, a homeowner's policy will cover the homeowner for injuries caused by their dogs.

The injured person is entitled to recover for medical expenses, compensation for lost wages for not being able to work due to their injuries, and pain and suffering damages, which includes scarring, quite common in dog attack cases.

*For additional information please contact CECERE & SANTANA | Toll free: (866) 913-3948  
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