



Residents, Fellows and Attendings - The Doctor Hierarchy

Welcome and thank you for joining me. I'm Gerry Oginski a New York Medical malpractice and personal injury trial lawyer practicing law here in the State of New York.

Today's tip answers the following three questions. (1) What is a resident? (2) What is a fellow? and (3) What is an attending physician?

(1) A resident is a doctor who's beginning their post graduate training after medical school. Depending upon the type of residency that they're in, that will determine the number of years that they must spend in post graduate training. For example, a medical resident spends three years of additional training after medical school. An obstetrician/gynecologist spends four years of additional training. There are some surgeons and sub-surgical specialties that spend anywhere from five to seven years in post graduate training.

(2) Now, beyond that there is something also known as a fellow. A fellow is a doctor who goes beyond their typical expected residency training into a subspecialty that allows them to obtain a specialized certificate in the area that they're focusing on.

(3) Okay, now what does it mean when a doctor is an attending physician? It means that they have graduated medical school. They have graduated and completed their residency training and now have applied and obtained privileges to see and treat patients in the hospital. Sometimes they're employed by the hospital. Sometimes they are private doctors who have offices outside of the hospital, but because of their attending privileges are allowed to see, treat and operate on patients in the hospital.

So those are the definitions of what is a resident, what is a fellow and what is an attending physician.

I'm Gerry Oginski here in New York. I want to thank you for joining me. Have a great day.

Gerry Oginski, an experienced New York medical malpractice, wrongful death and personal injury trial attorney practicing law in Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx, Manhattan, Staten Island, Long Island, Nassau & Suffolk explains.

For more information about these types of cases, go to [Gerry's popular website](#), or call Gerry personally at 516-487-8207 for answers to your questions or by email at lawmed10@yahoo.com. He welcomes your call.