



# What You Should Know About Your Legal Rights Concerning Silica-Related Diseases

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# Kelley & Ferraro

**Kelley & Ferraro  
is one of the  
fastest growing  
law firms in  
America.**



# Serves You and Your Family

The attorneys at Kelley & Ferraro have built a national practice in obtaining outstanding results for men, women, and families victimized by occupation-related diseases.

Since it was founded in 1997, the Cleveland-based law firm of Kelley & Ferraro has compiled the largest number of civil cases of any law firm in Ohio. Most of the firm's more than 30,000 pending cases are on behalf of workers exposed to silica, asbestos, and other related workplace substances.

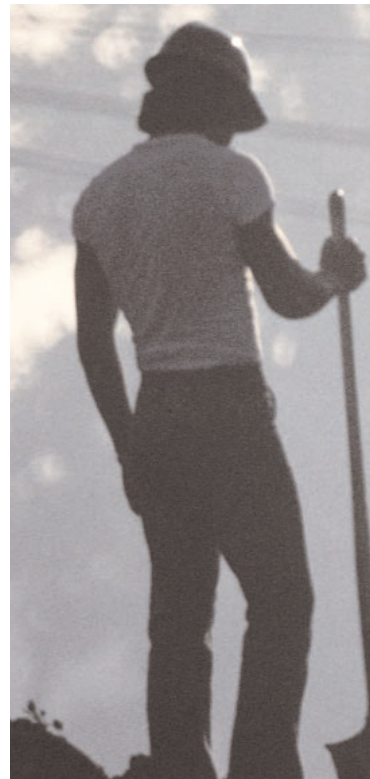
*Ohio Lawyers Weekly* reported that four of the 13 largest court settlements negotiated in Ohio in 2002 were negotiated by Kelley & Ferraro. From these combined settlements, our clients obtained more than \$12 million. Nationwide, in just one 12-month period, Kelley & Ferraro successfully negotiated \$500 million in asbestos settlements for clients.

Obtaining money for your injuries from silica or other toxic substances is not the only way Kelley & Ferraro works for you.

At Kelley & Ferraro, we help our valued clients in other areas of the law, including worker's compensation, products liability, medical malpractice, wrongful death, automobile accidents, and all types of personal injury matters.

But before we can help, you must call us so that we can answer your questions. Or better yet, we would be happy to schedule an appointment to meet with you. Feel free to call Kelley & Ferraro at 216.575.0777 or toll free at 1.888.839.8479.

Meanwhile, this brochure provides straightforward answers to questions about diseases caused by exposure to silica and silica-containing products and how Kelley & Ferraro strives to secure just compensation for your injuries.



## ▶ The Problems of Silica Exposure

If you or a loved one has a silica-related disease, you may be entitled to compensation.

Many workers in the foundry, steel, sandblasting, refractory, construction, brick, and railroad industries have been harmed from inhaling high levels of respirable silica.

Inhalation of silica may cause silicosis, a disabling and non-reversible fibrotic condition of the lungs, as well as lung cancer, lupus, sclerodroma, and rheumatoid arthritis.



# ► Frequently Asked Questions About Silica

## **What is Silica?**

It is a mineral that is mined. Another name is quartz.

## **How Does Silica Exposure Occur?**

It occurs when crystalline silica dust is inhaled.

## **How Many People are Exposed to Silica?**

Over one million annually.

## **What Occupations Put Workers at an Increased Risk to Silica Exposure?**

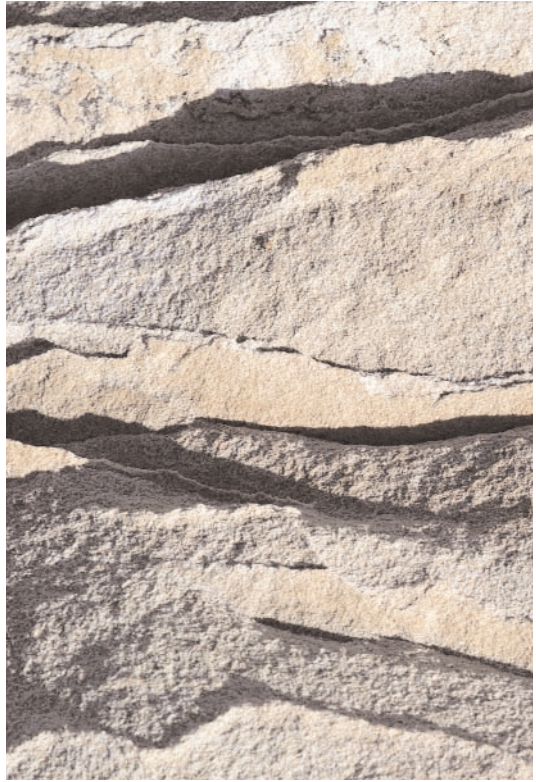
- Construction
- Demolition
- Mining
- Sandblasting
- Stone masonry
- Abrasives and Glass manufacturing
- Pottery
- Railroad track setting, laying, and repair.



## What Materials Have Crystalline Silica?

Common construction materials, including:

- Blasting abrasives
- Brick
- Concrete
- Cement mortar
- Granite, sandstone, slate
- Mineral deposits, rock
- Sand
- Topsoil
- Asphalt.



## **What Diseases are Caused by Exposure to Breathable Free Silica?**

- Silicosis
- Cancer
- Mixed Dust Pneumoconiosis
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, including emphysema
- Autoimmune diseases, including scleroderma and rheumatoid arthritis
- Tuberculosis
- Chronic kidney disease.

## **What is the Principal Silica Disease?**

It is silicosis, which is caused by exposure to breathable free silica. Silicosis is an occupational lung disease. It causes inflammation and scarring of the lung tissue. This inhibits the normal flow of oxygen into the lungs and bloodstream.

## **When Was it Identified?**

The name silicosis was first used in the 1930s. Before then, it was known as dust consumption, grinders asthma, grinder's rot, grit consultation, miner's asthma, potter's rot, rock tuberculosis, and stonemason's disease.



## **What are the Types of Silicosis?**

- Chronic silicosis, which results from long-term exposure to low amounts of silica.
- Accelerated silicosis, which occurs more quickly than chronic silicosis, usually due to exposure to larger amounts over a shorter period of time.
- Acute silicosis, which occurs due to short-term exposure to large amounts. It can develop within weeks or up to five years after exposure.

## **What are the Symptoms of Silicosis?**

- Shortness of Breath
- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Fatigue
- Chest pain
- Loss of appetite
- Fever
- Bluish skin at the ears and lips.

## **What is Silicoproteinosis?**

This is a fatal lung disease characterized by a decreased ability of the lungs to produce sufficient oxygen.

## **Can Anyone Contract a Silica-Related Disease?**

Yes, but the vast majority of victims are men and women who were subjected to prolonged exposure to on-the-job silica in the 1940s, '50s, '60s, and '70s.

Many who were exposed to silica-containing products were NOT warned about the dangers.

## **How Does Someone Suffering from a Silica Related Disease Seek Compensation?**

If you or a loved one believe that you have been exposed to silica and might have a claim, contact Kelley & Ferraro at 216.575.077 or toll free at 1.888.839.8479 to schedule an appointment. ■





## James L. Ferraro

James L. Ferraro, co-founder of Kelley & Ferraro, established his national reputation when he was chosen as one of ten national finalists for *Trial Lawyer of the Year* in 1997 for his courtroom triumph

against the chemical giant, DuPont & Company, for causing a birth defect in his client's child.

The Florida jury held DuPont accountable and awarded the victimized mother of the infant \$4 million. An appeals court upheld the verdict. Court TV covered the trial, and the verdict received worldwide attention.

Since then, Ferraro has filed 12 suits on behalf of families whose children were born with similar defects — without their eyes — due to the wrongful conduct of DuPont.

Beyond the DuPont case, Ferraro has attained many multi-million dollar jury verdicts and settlements for clients. Ferraro is licensed to practice in Florida, Massachusetts, New York, and Ohio.



**John Martin Murphy**, whose litigation practice also includes personal injury and asbestos litigation, is the part-time magistrate in Bratenahl Village and Grand River Village, suburbs of Cleveland.