

# SUBROGATION & LIENS Personal Injury Cases

University of Texas School of Law  
The Car Crash Seminar  
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Before handing over your client's money to health plans and hospitals ... learn the rules.



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## Subrogation vs Reimbursement vs Assignment

Case law: “no meaningful difference between the two.” *Wausau v Wedel* TxSct 06 08 2018. BUT:

BAM! Blue, Aldous and Malouf & \$114M jm for Hill.  
*Aldous v Darwin Nat’l Assurance Co* 5<sup>th</sup> Cir, 03/16/17:

“Darwin, get off your Nat’l Ass and sue the third party, because your **subro interest vs 3<sup>rd</sup> party is not a right of reimb against your own insured.**”

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## Ch. 140 Civil Prac. & Rem. Code

For **insured** health, disability, occ injury; & self-funded state & local gov’t plans

**Not** w/c, not M/Care, not M/Caid

1/3 1/3 1/3 of 3<sup>rd</sup> party recovery

No subrogation to PIP  
No subrogation to UM/UIM if ptf or family purchased it  
No subro to children’s or w/d recoveries



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- **Rule 1. Who is the Plaintiff in relationship to the subrogation interest or lien asserted?**



child



Employee participant;  
injured spouse; derivative  
claimant



Wrongful death or estate

Start early. Be consistent. Be strategic.

## CHILDREN

“Neither the next friend nor the parent of a minor child is authorized to ... throw away” the “substantial rights” of a minor child;  
*Lowery v. Berry*, 269 S.W.2d 795, 797 (Tex. 1954).

**PERSONAL INJURY DAMAGES**

**PJC 15.5**

**PJC 15.5 Personal Injury Damages—Injury of Minor Child**

QUESTION \_\_\_\_\_

PJC 15.5 includes elements of damages (e.g., loss of earning capacity and medical care expenses incurred before the age of majority) that reflect injuries to the minor, but that are not recoverable by the minor, the Committee felt that a revision was necessary

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"Subrogation and Liens"