



## Mesothelioma – Still A Serious Health Risk After Decades of Asbestos Ban.

**M**alignant mesothelioma is a type of cancer that occurs in the thin layer of tissue that covers the majority of your internal organs (mesothelium).

Sadly, it is an aggressive and deadly disease. Mesothelioma treatments are available, but for many people with mesothelioma, a cure isn't possible.

Doctors divide mesothelioma into different types based on what part of the mesothelium is affected. Mesothelioma most often affects the tissue that surrounds the lungs (pleura). This type is called pleural mesothelioma. Other, rarer types of mesothelioma affect tissue in the abdomen (peritoneal mesothelioma), around the heart and around the testicles.

### Asbestos Exposure: The Primary Risk Factor for Mesothelioma

Most mesotheliomas are thought to be related to asbestos exposure. Asbestos is a mineral that's found naturally in the environment.

When asbestos is broken up, such as during the mining process or when

removing asbestos insulation, dust may be created. If the dust is inhaled or swallowed, the asbestos fibers will settle in the lungs or in the stomach, where they can cause irritation that may lead to mesothelioma. Exactly how this happens isn't understood.

While asbestos was banned in the late 1970s, people today still suffer from illnesses related to asbestos exposure. Although products today can still be made with small amounts of asbestos, the regulations that control its use and manage its removal from older buildings are very strict.

At its peak, asbestos was also used in a lot of residential and commercial products including brake pads, automobile clutches, roofing materials, vinyl tile, cement piping, corrugated sheeting, home insulation and some potting soils. So auto mechanics and those in building trades are also at risk.

One of the most obvious sources of asbestos exposure is an asbestos mine or processing center. While there are no existing asbestos mines in West Virginia, West Virginia is a global hub for manufacturing, mining, steel and

power. These industries have a dark history of using products containing asbestos despite knowing its dangerous health risks.

### Factors That May Increase the Risk of Mesothelioma Include:

- **Personal history of asbestos exposure.** If you've been directly exposed to asbestos fibers at work or at home, your risk of mesothelioma is greatly increased.
- **Living with someone who works with asbestos.** People who are exposed to asbestos may carry the fibers home on their skin and clothing. Exposure to these stray fibers over many years can put others in the home at risk of mesothelioma. People who work with high levels of asbestos can reduce the risk of bringing home asbestos fibers by showering and changing clothes before leaving work.
- **A family history of mesothelioma.** If your parent, sibling or child has mesothelioma, you may have an increased risk of this disease.
- **Radiation therapy to the chest.** If you had radiation therapy for cancer in your chest, you might have an increased risk of mesothelioma.

If you have been diagnosed with mesothelioma, you deserve highly experienced, compassionate representation. Contact Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, at 877-526-3457 or [jandils.com](http://jandils.com). We don't take "NO" for an answer.

Source: [www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/mesothelioma/symptoms-causes/syc-20375022](http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/mesothelioma/symptoms-causes/syc-20375022)

## Letter From Jan

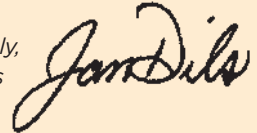
Our firm is celebrating a milestone – 25 years of practicing law. I opened the firm in Parkersburg, West Virginia, in 1994 as the solo attorney/employee. My practice has grown to 118 people with six offices, but not for the reasons I expected. Our local economy has been a hub to industries that have put our workers in harm's way. Many of them exposing employees to asbestos – the leading cause of mesothelioma..

Also, on the "watch list" are common hip replacement implants made by DePuy, a Johnson & Johnson subsidiary: Articular Surface Replacement (ASR) XL Acetabular System and ASR Hip Resurfacing System. Did you know that approximately 400,000

hip replacements are performed in the U.S. annually? If you had a hip replacement with one of these DePuy parts between 2005 and 2010, you may be entitled to a settlement. Confirmed in an article by *The New York Times*, the DePuy executives knew about the failures and continued to sell their devices before the 2010 recall.

The fact is, the chances of an individual going up against "big money" companies like Johnson & Johnson and Gilead Sciences and winning is slim. But that's why we continued to fight for 25 years. Don't be a victim of the deep pockets of companies accountable to their investors. Contact [jandils.com](http://jandils.com), or call toll-free at 877-526-3457.

Sincerely,  
Jan Dils

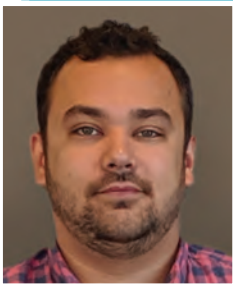


Jan Dils brings her expertise to issues that affect you and millions of other Americans every day. While her knowledge spans the critical areas pertaining to Personal Injury, Veterans benefits, Social Security disability benefits and related appeals and claims, her practice remains focused on people, making sure you get the right answers and results.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT!

### Wes Mendoza

We welcome Wes Mendoza to the Personal Injury Department as a Leads & Intake Specialist. Wes was born and raised in Parkersburg, West Virginia. He is currently working to obtain a bachelor's degree in business administration at WVUP and already has an AAS in legal studies. "I have only been at the firm for a short time, but I really enjoy the many opportunities I have to help our injured clients while they are facing difficult times in their lives."



When not hard at work at the firm, Wes enjoys spending time with his fiancée Kasandra and two children, Mason and Camilla. Wes enjoys yardwork, home renovations, and he loves to cook. He's a true "foodie" with a diverse palate and an appreciation for all types of cuisine.

## OFFICE INBOX

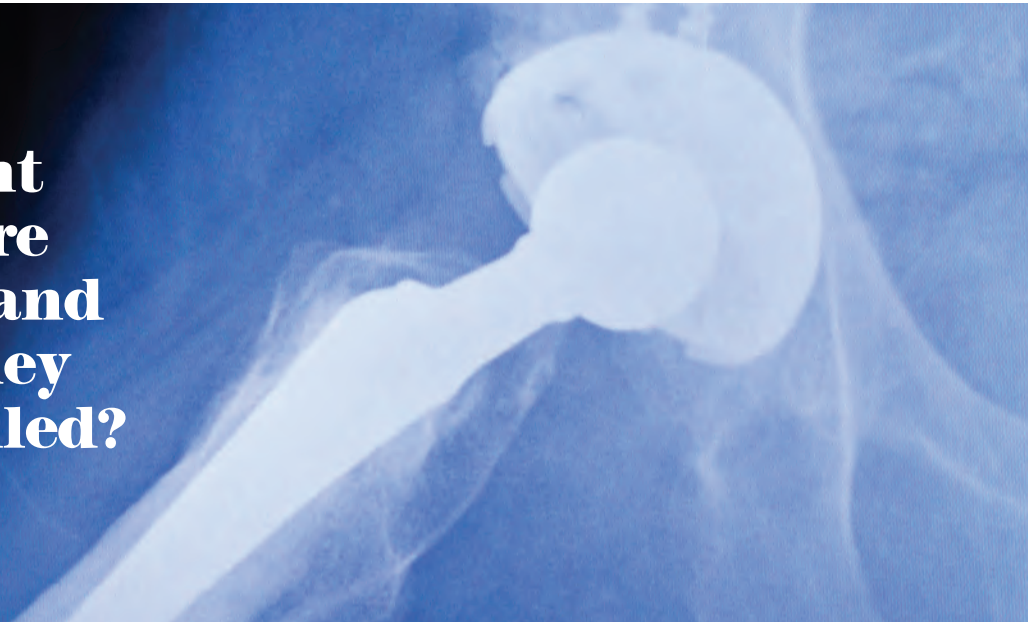
**Bethany Wilson** (VA Case Manager) is having a baby boy. **Amanda Fletcher** (VA Case Management Support) got married to her husband Jacob on April 6. **Eric Hillyard-Poling** (Accounting and Project Manager) got married to his husband James on June 22. **Shawna Bennett** (SS Hearing Clerk) is also having a baby boy. We welcome all to the Jan Dils family!

## Community Corner

We thoroughly enjoyed our **Freedom 5K Fun Run**. It was a double treat – fun and successful! On June 29, 2019, 370+ individuals gathered in the Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, parking lot to enjoy refreshments, entertainment and exercise. We were able to achieve our goal of raising \$25,000 for the WVU-P Veteran Recipient Scholarship and MOV Project Yoga – Veterans Project. This would not have been possible without the help of our volunteers, participants, local businesses and sponsors. There were people in attendance from as far north as New York and as far east as Washington, D.C. We have already started planning for next year and cannot be more grateful to be a part of this community.



# Which Hip Replacement Implants Are Under Fire and Why Are They Being Recalled?



**D**ePuy is one of the largest manufacturers of hip replacements in the world. It sells individual hip implant components such as femur stems, femoral heads and acetabular cups, in addition to complete hip replacement systems. Some DePuy hip implants have been recalled or discontinued because they

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DePuy Orthopaedics is a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson. Their top hip reconstruction products include the Tapered Hip System, the Total Hip System and Hip Solutions modular cups.

DePuy has several products with a history of safety and effectiveness, but some of its products have been

scrutinized and recalled for ineffectiveness. In 2010, DePuy recalled its Articular Surface Replacement (ASR) XL Acetabular System and ASR Hip Resurfacing System because a large number of patients required revision surgery after receiving the implants.

The company also stopped selling the all-metal versions of its Pinnacle system of implants because large

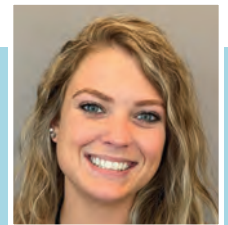
numbers of consumers claimed the devices were faulty and led to a type of metal poisoning called metallosis.

The ASR XL System was launched in the United States in 2005. It was designed to be used for total hip replacements. The ASR Hip Resurfacing System was sold internationally beginning in 2003.

*Continues on back page >>>*

## Stuffed Bell Peppers

A hearty Sunday meal from our receptionist **Chelsea Gore**.



### INGREDIENTS:

6 bell peppers, any color

4 tablespoons olive oil, plus more for drizzling

8 ounces lean ground beef

Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 onion, finely diced

2 cloves garlic, chopped

1 medium zucchini, finely diced

4 Roma tomatoes, seeded and finely diced

Red pepper flakes, as needed

1 cup cooked long-grain and wild rice

1-1/2 cups grated pepper Jack cheese

**DIRECTIONS:** Preheat the oven to 350° F. Cut the tops off the peppers. Remove and discard the stems, then finely chop the tops; set aside. Scoop out the seeds and as much of the membrane as you can. Place the peppers cut-side up in a baking dish just large enough to hold them upright. Heat 2 tablespoons of the olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the beef, season with salt and pepper and cook, breaking up the lumps, until the meat is cooked through and just beginning to brown, 8 to 10 minutes. Remove to a paper towel-lined plate to get rid of the fat. Then, wipe out the skillet and add the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil. Add the onions and chopped peppers and cook until beginning to soften, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the garlic and zucchini and cook for another minute. Add tomatoes and season with salt and a pinch or two of red pepper flakes. Cook until everything is heated through, then stir in the beef and rice. Taste and adjust the seasoning. Stir in 1 cup of the cheese. Fill the peppers with the rice mixture and top each with a sprinkle of the remaining 1/2 cup cheese. Pour a small amount of water into the bottom of the baking dish and drizzle the peppers with a little olive oil. Cover with foil and bake for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake until the peppers are soft, and the cheese is melted and lightly browned, another 15 to 20 minutes.





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*Continued from inside story*

However, DePuy recalled the products in 2010 after receiving data from the National Joint Registry of England and Wales indicating the devices had higher-than-normal failure rates. Months later, the British Orthopaedic Association and the British Hip Society reported even higher failure rates.

According to legal documents, DePuy knew its hip implants were defective before the recall. Failure rates in some of the company's studies were close to 40 percent, and company executives discussed the failure rates before deciding to discontinue the devices in 2009, according to *The New York Times*. The company continued to sell its remaining devices before issuing the recall.

By 2012, Johnson & Johnson had budgeted \$3 billion to settle more than



3,000 lawsuits involving the ASR hip replacement systems, according to Reuters. A year later, the company settled thousands of ASR hip lawsuits for \$4 billion.

If you had one of the DePuy ARS hip

replacements in question, you may be entitled to a settlement. If you feel you have or are unsure, contact Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, at **877.526.3457** or **jandils.com**. Your first consultation is always free.