

What is General Causation?

General Causation

In the product liability context, **general causation** is the legal and scientific determination of whether the product in question has the inherent capability to cause the alleged injury under certain circumstances. Establishment of general causation is a critical aspect of a plaintiff's case, and typically requires scientific evidence, such as epidemiology or toxicology, and expert testimony to establish a causal connection between the product's design, manufacturing, or warnings and the injury or injuries at issue. As contrasted to specific causation, the focus in a general causation inquiry is on whether the product or exposure, as a general matter, can cause the type of injury claimed by the plaintiff. A general causation inquiry does not assess any facts unique to a particular plaintiff.

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