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## **Endoscopy Centers File for Bankruptcy**

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There's been a major setback for patients suing the clinics at the center of the hepatitis C scare. The three clinics accused of using unsafe injection practices have now filed for bankruptcy.

There have been big delays in this case, but attorney's say the filing means justice for the victims is on hold. This bankruptcy paperwork was filed quietly in federal court Friday, but it's now creating an uproar.

Ed Bernstein is just one attorney who's suing Dr. Dipak Desai, the doctor at the center of the health crisis. An investigation found dangerous injection practices with needles and syringes being reused.

While Desai seeks Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection, Bernstein says the former patients will feel more pain. "Now that a Chapter 7 proceeding has been filed, all the discovery, all the court proceedings -- and we're really in the seventh inning of this hot and heavy bat here -- are now halted," said Bernstein.

Michael Washington, the first patient who tested positive for hepatitis C after visiting Dr. Desai, first said almost a year ago he was ready for his day in court. "Let's get it finished -- that's the way I feel," he said back in 2008.

But Washington's trial, the first one scheduled in this massive case, may not happen as it's supposed to in October. "It victimizes people like Mr. and Mrs. Washington twice," said Bernstein.

The bankruptcy filing has put everything in a holding pattern. "This is, in my opinion, and attempt to delay, postpone, these proceedings," said Bernstein. "This has been a pattern of behavior from day one."

Nearly 500 plaintiffs could have to wait longer before they see a judge in the largest medical malpractice case in Nevada history.