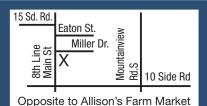


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**Zachary Fiddes** 

What is an easement and how do they affect my property?

An easement is a right that another person or company has over your land. For example, your neighbour could have an easement over a portion of your property to gain access to their property, like a shared driveway, or a utility company could have an easement over your property to build and maintain utilities that cross your backyard.

An easement often restricts your ability to build any structure on the land over the easement area since that will likely impede on the rights of whoever owns the easement. For example, you would not be able to build a pool if the cable company has an easement to install buried wires along half of your backyard, nor could you build a fence across a shared driveway if it impedes on your neighbours' ability to access their house.

The rights and obligations described in any easements registered on a property are usually transferred to the new owners when the property is sold so when buying a new property it's a good idea to obtain an up to date survey that will show the location of any existing easements on the property.

A licensed Ontario Land Surveyor can describe what you own by preparing a survey of your property and can even stake out the limits of any easements on the ground if necessary. As a licensed Ontario Land Surveyor I will be happy to discuss your particular situation with you and help you determine if a survey of your property is recommended for your needs.



# Ask the Professionals

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• I have been through the most excruciating pain I can imagine. I have recently lost my little girl to an illness and I can't imagine going on, but I have to—she has younger siblings. How do I carry on when it hurts to even breath?

• I am so sorry for your loss. I have written about grief before but nothing ever • feels like enough to even lessen the horror you must be feeling. Over the years, much has been written about the "stages of grief" but that description really is inadequate. The loss of a child, whether through miscarriage or illness or accident, doesn't fit into nice little boxes of "stages"

The emotions often feel overwhelming and are frequently not understood by others. There is often anger and rage. Anger at God, at the medical community, at the perceived cause of this loss, and ultimately anger at yourself or your partner for not having been able to prevent the death of your child, can become immobilizing.

The anger can frequently turn into quilt or fear. Guilt that you were unable to prevent the death. Fear that the loss of your child was a punishment for something you did or did not do. You may experience guilt that you are still alive while your child is not, and guilt when you forget your pain for a split second and smile at something. You have the fear that you will forget the sound of your child's voice or call your other child by their name. You worry that you may also lose your other children. And of course you worry about how the others in the family, your partner, other children and extended family, will cope with

Profound grief is also the cause of physical ailments. You may feel generally unwell. You may find it difficult to concentrate or focus and find yourself becoming apathetic and withdrawn. You may be dealing with symptoms of PTSD and keep re-experiencing the moment when you first heard of the death. You may also be dealing with those who feel that you are not progressing through this journey fast enough.

These responses to loss can come between partners as each feels the other doesn't understand or they each feel reluctant to open the wounds by talking about the loss. There are so many dynamics to any unanticipated loss, but the loss of a child, no matter what age, I think is by far the most devastating. Counselling cannot alleviate the death, but it can provide a non-judgmental and safe place to deal with this most significant loss.

### "HELPING YOU HELP YOURSELF"