



The Insider's Legal Guide®

Vehicle Accidents

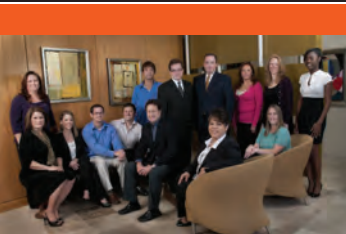
Medical Malpractice

Daycare Abuse

Nursing Home Negligence

Birth Injury

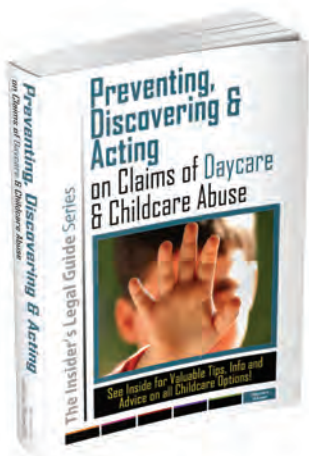
Product Liability



What's Inside

- A Disturbing Trend
- Ask Jeff
- It Gets Better
- Congrats Robert!
- Thank You

Protect Your Child!



Get our free book on Daycare Abuse by visiting insiderslegalguide.com today!

A Disturbing Teen Trend

Study shows fatal accidents involving teens on the rise

Fatal car crashes are always tragic, but fatal accidents are even more devastating when they involve teenagers. For this reason, state and federal governments have worked to decrease the number of teens who die each year in car crashes. Since the mid-90's they have been largely successful, but now new information has come to light.

Preliminary data for teen deaths in car crashes for the first six months of 2011 showed a disturbing new trend. For the first time in 8 years, the number of teen deaths isn't decreasing; it's increasing. The first six months have showed an 11% increase in teen fatalities from 190 to 211 deaths. The increase has not been uniform across the country. Some states have stayed the same or even seen a decrease in deaths, but it is the overall percentage increase and the fact that the adult fatalities have simultaneously decreased that concerns officials.

Why the Increase?

No one is quite sure yet what's causing the increase. There are several different theories and it may be that it's a combination of different factors. We'll know more after the data for the second half of 2011 is collected.

1. The Economy – Better is Worse

There may actually be a downside to the economy getting stronger. Now that families are doing better and gas prices aren't as high as they were in 2008, it's more affordable for teens to drive recreationally. More

teens on the road have unfortunately created more fatal incidents.

2. Graduated Drivers Licenses (GDL) Effects Leveling Off

GDLs are state programs that give new drivers only certain privileges and often require potential drivers to have more experience before earning their license. In most states, a potential driver might have to have a permit for at least 6 months. Other common restrictions include not having any other teens in the car and having a curfew at night for the first 6 months or even 1 year after receiving a license.

- When graduated licenses first started being introduced in the mid-90s up to the mid-2000s, there was a huge drop off in teen deaths. Decreases were up to 20% or 40%.

- For example, in 1995 there were 1,015 deaths for teens 16 or 17 years old, while in 2010 after GDL programs that number was down to 408.

Now that GDL programs are common throughout the country and are being reinforced on a regular basis, researchers are wondering if the downward trend is finally leveling off. Have we gotten all the benefits we can from GDLs?

3. Distracted Driving – More Ways Not to Pay Attention

Distracted driving has increased for all drivers.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

After all, with iPhones and GPSs there are more devices than ever to take a driver's attention off the road. The National Transportation and Safety Board has already called for a national ban on cell phone use (even with hands off devices) while driving a vehicle.

- Teens are one of the largest groups who use portable electronic devices and are found texting while on the road.

- Teen drivers are more likely than other age groups to be involved in a fatal crash where distraction is reported. In 2009, 16% of teen drivers involved in a fatal crash were reported to have been distracted.

- 40% of all American teens say they have been in a car when the driver used a cell phone in a way that put people in danger.

How do we stop the increase in teen deaths and improve safety?

1. Federal Help

The Governor's Highway Safety Association (GHSA), the organization who first compiled the research on the increase in teen driving fatalities, is looking to Congress to help combat this national problem.

In the past, the federal government has been instrumental in offering states incentives to pass new laws that would increase teen safety. Focusing on efforts to institute GDLs and prevent drunk driving.

- Congress is currently in the process of writing and passing a new transportation bill. The bill will affect everyone from truck drivers, commuters, bicyclists, pedestrians and those who use public transportation. The bill has the opportunity to influence states to cut down on dangers like distracted driving.

- Unfortunately, the going is slow and those in the transportation industry worry that the bill will not even be finished in time to make the March 31st deadline. If that happens, the federal government may not provide the assistance that GHSA is looking for.

2. Industry Help – Car Makers Step Up to Keep Us Safe

After Federal guidelines and bills, it's up to the car manufacturers to institute change. Change will be based on what is called a "2-second rule." The idea is that any task that takes a driver more than 2 seconds to do or can't be completed in brief 2-second intervals shouldn't be allowed.

- The same cars that boasted the first built-in GPSs will continue to alter new models so that the GPS can only be activated when the vehicle is stopped.

- If the auto industry follows new guidelines, the car will prevent drivers from using factory installed devices to text, browse, use social media or dial phone numbers.

3. State Help – Keep Texan Teens Safe

On the more local level, state officials and citizens can help to cut down on the big factors involved in teen crashes: driving at night, distracted driving, driving while under the influence and lack of seat belt use.

- In Texas, the curfew for 16-year-old drivers is midnight to 5 am. The GHSA found that risks increase after dark, much earlier than midnight. If you have or work with a teenage driver please encourage him or her to get off the roads before dark.

- Earlier curfews are also important because 90% of accidents involving alcohol occur at night.

- Distracted driving risks also include having other teens in the car. Most graduated licenses limit the number of other teen passengers other than family members.

- Alcohol and substance abuse prevention programs in high schools are essential. When local and federal funding fail to offer enough assistance, private sponsors like insurance companies and local businesses give teachers the resources they need to enact change. Be a supporter of a local program.

- Teens are much more likely not to use seat belts than adults are. Data from 2008 showed that 20% of teens don't wear a seatbelt.

- More than half of the teens involved in fatal crashes in 2009 weren't buckled in.

- Some school programs have been successful in reinforcing the importance of seat-belt laws by offering candy and cash prizes to those who are vigilant about seatbelts.

Texas has the highest number of fatal teen crashes in the country. In the first six months of 2010 alone there were 22 deaths. Compare that to the second highest number at 11 in North Carolina. Check out the safety education materials on *Texas Department of Transportation's* web page or at *Teens in the Driver's Seat* for more info on how to promote safety. You can also visit www.dallascarcash.com and www.jrlawfirm.com to learn more about driving safety.

Ask Jeff



What do I do if I experienced bad reaction to a recalled drug? - Doug, Plano

The first thing you need to do is ensure your safety. Stop taking the drug and seek medical help immediately. Be sure to bring the recalled drug with you and tell the doctor where you received the drug.

Then it is best to contact an attorney who has experience dealing with recalled drugs and product liability lawsuits. If you have experienced further injury due to using the drug, you may be entitled to monetary damages.

Visit www.insiderslegalguide.com for video answers to your most frequently asked questions.

You're Not Alone - Support Help In The Grieving Process

The following is part of It Gets Better, an ongoing discussion of grief and dealing with sudden loss.

Grief is a common word used to describe an emotion felt by an individual experiencing the tragedy of death. While grief is very personal and unique to each individual, the support of others is very important and having a support system in place can be key to moving forward.

Usually, grieving doesn't take place with just one person; it's a circle of close family and friends learning how to cope with the death of their loved one. While collectively mourning the loss of a loved one with family and friends is helpful, many people find organized grief support groups beneficial.

Many of these support groups are run by professional grief counselors who oftentimes have experienced a profound loss in their own life. Others, such as clergy or therapists, use their professional expertise to facilitate and guide groups. Participants can lean on one another and share their stories and the experiences that are helping them through their own grieving process.

Finding the right support group for you can make all the difference when working through the grieving process.

Here are some tips when looking for a support group:

- Ask other professionals you've worked with to recommend a support group
- Make sure the group leader has experience – a good counselor guides the discussion and offers encouragement
- Find a group that deals with specific kinds of loss - a specialized support group can help eliminate the feeling of isolation
- Select a group that feels right for you - not all people grieve the same so no group is right for everyone
- Take a friend - a friend's perspective may be valuable in selecting the right group for you
- Research online support articles and resources

Do you have a group or resource you would like to share with others? Please, visit our Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/theRasanskyLawFirm) and share it on our wall, or email it to jeff.rasansky@jrlawfirm.com.

Testimonial - "From the moment I contacted Rasansky Law Firm until my case settled, they handled everything perfectly. Losing my child was devastating and unthinkable...Ryan and Maria went above and beyond to help me during a very difficult time. They were both very supportive and stayed in touch with me throughout the case and I am eternally grateful for their help during the toughest time in my life." - Shanna, Wrongful Death Client

Rasansky Law Firm

2525 McKinnon, Suite 625
Dallas, Texas 75201

Toll Free: 1-800-Attorney

Direct Line: 214-651-6100

Fax: 214-651-6150

www.jrlawfirm.com

www.texasinjuryattorney.com

In This Issue...

- ▣ A Disturbing Trend
- ▣ Ask Jeff
- ▣ It Gets Better
- ▣ Congrats Robert!
- ▣ Thank You

CONNECT WITH US!



[Facebook.com/TheRasanskyLawFirm](https://www.facebook.com/TheRasanskyLawFirm)



[Twitter.com/RasanskyLawFirm](https://twitter.com/RasanskyLawFirm)



[YouTube.com/RasanskyLawFirm](https://www.youtube.com/RasanskyLawFirm)



[Twitter.com/JeffRasansky](https://twitter.com/JeffRasansky)



www.JeffRasansky.com

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in the newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the paper is copied in its entirety.

Visit www.jrlawfirm.com

Congrats to our *Rising Star*, Robert Wolf

We are proud to announce that Robert Wolf has earned a spot on the 2012 *Texas Rising Stars* listing of the state's top young attorneys. This is the second consecutive year that Robert has earned a place on the listing and is a testament to his dedication to our clients and their cases.



To compile the 2012 *Texas Rising Stars* list, researchers with Thomson Reuters' Legal division asked the more than 70,000 Texas lawyers to nominate fellow attorneys whose work they have personally observed. The full list is published in the April 2012 editions of *Texas Monthly* and *Texas Rising Stars* magazines, and is available online at www.superlawyers.com.

"Robert is an exceptional lawyer, and it is no surprise that lawyers across Texas recognize his great work," said firm founder Jeff Rasansky. *"To us, his isn't a rising star, but a star in his own right already. His dedication to our clients is unmatched and his work shows that."*

Thank you Robert for everything you do for your family, clients, coworkers and friends!

Thank You!

We want to thank the following for their referrals in the past month.

- ▣ Eric Pinker -
Lynn Tillotson Pinker & Cox LLP
www.lynnllp.com
- ▣ Larry Rolle -
Rolle, Breeland, Ryan,
Landau, Wingler & Hindman
www.rbrl.com
- ▣ Tom Kiley -
Kiley Law Group
www.tomkileylaw.com

Thank you to all of the other friends, clients, family members, attorneys and other businesses for sending us your referrals!

Refer Your Loved Ones to Us Today, *Because You Care Enough to Help*