

CHILD SAFETY BLOG

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From Tragedy To Justice - Attorneys For The Injured

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Governments plan to make polio a disease of the past

Two U.S. government agencies - the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) - joined the World Health Organization WHO) and the Russian Ministry of Health and Social Development to sign the global protocol of intent to eradicate polio wherever it occurs. The agreement also has the support of international charity organizations, such as Rotary International, and will reach out to communities throughout the world.

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Polio has long been eradicated in North America due to successful vaccination programs, but outbreaks of this highly infectious crippling disease continue to occur in some central Asian and African countries. And because polio is extremely contagious, there is always a risk of it being transmitted to countries where it no longer exists or was thought to be eradicated, including the U.S. Since this poses a risk to unvaccinated children, the goal of the agreement is to eradicate all strains of polio.

Since 2006, only four countries - Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan - remain polio-endemic with indigenous poliovirus circulation. Additionally, in four African countries wild poliovirus was either known (Angola, Chad) or suspected (Democratic Republic of the Congo, southern Sudan) to have persisted for more than 12 months as of mid-2009, leading to their designation as having “re-established” transmission.

Unfortunately, the list does not end there, as the following countries have had imported polio cases or cases related to an imported poliovirus within the past 24 months:

Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ghana, Guinea, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Nepal, Niger, Russia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkmenistan and Uganda.

Source: **USAID**

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Families interested in learning more about our firm's legal services, including legal representation for children who have suffered serious injuries in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia due to medical malpractice, defective products, birth-related trauma or other injuries, may ask questions or send us information about a particular case by phone or email. There is no charge for contacting us regarding your inquiry. An attorney will respond within 24 hours.

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