



Insider's Legal Guide

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More Than Just Floaties

Tips for your child's summer water safety

Editor's Note: Back by popular demand. This article first appeared in May 2010.

The days are getting longer and the temperatures are finally beginning to climb. This can only signal one thing in Texas, and that's scorching hot summers filled with barbecues and fun in the sun. There is only one way to beat the heat this time of year and that's by jumping in a pool or one of Texas' many lakes or rivers.

The rising temperatures also mark the beginning of a dangerous season in Texas and the rest of the country. With many families looking to water to tame the heat, there is the constant risk of water related injuries and deaths.

According to the American Red Cross, 90 percent of families with young children plan to be in the water this summer. They also point out that 48 percent of those families will be swimming in an area without a lifeguard. This number is almost surely higher here in Texas where most people flock to rivers, lakes, streams and even ponds.

The best way to keep your children safe while around water is to follow some basic safe swimming guidelines:

■ **The Buddy System** - An "oldie but a goodie," the buddy system has long been an excellent way to keep children safe while playing in the water. Never let your children swim alone.

■ **Teach your children to swim** - There is no better way to keep your children safe in the water than to be ensure that everyone in the family can swim well.

■ **Swim in designated areas** - If you are at a public swimming pool or other supervised area, be sure that your children are staying within the designated area.

■ **Stay close** - Never leave your child unattended in the water, and don't trust another child with the safety of your child.

■ **Use appropriate barriers** - If you have a pool at home; be sure to have the appropriate barriers and safety gates securely in place.

■ **Avoid distractions** - Always keep your children within your sight, and stay away from distractions.

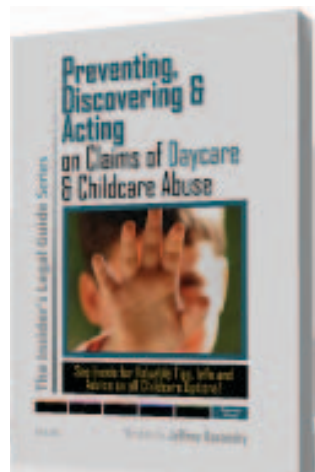
While certainly not a comprehensive list, these tips, coupled with good common sense should help to keep you and your family safe when it comes time for those family camping outings or your trip to the pool or local "swimming hole".



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Protect Your Child!



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

Ask Jeff

Question: *I've been in a wreck, do I need a lawyer?*



If you have been seriously injured in a vehicle accident or your vehicle has suffered major damage, then it is highly recommended that you talk to an attorney.

Insurance companies spend billions of dollars on advertising so they can spread misinformation about accident claims. Unwittingly, motorists can give incriminating statements, assume a degree of guilt and fail to provide evidence all at the prodding of an opposing insurance agent. Insurance agents are in business to discourage court proceedings and settle out of court.

When your livelihood is on the line, you cannot take that chance.

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

Safety - Under Construction

Work zones pose a threat to workers and drivers alike

When you think about the dangers of working in a construction zone, you probably think of falling from scaffolding or heavy machinery accidents. However, one of the leading causes of death for construction workers in Texas is being struck by vehicles passing the highways and interstates where many construction workers labor each day. Sadly, Texas leads the nation when it comes to highway construction work zone deaths: 108 people from across the state were killed in such accidents in 2009 alone.

According to many construction workers, most drivers don't realize that they are literally driving by another person's work environment – and that speeding or not paying close attention while in a work zone could lead to serious injury or death. In fact, construction workers on Highway 84 outside of Waco recently set up a desk and office on the side of the road to get the point across to drivers: be wary and slow down.

What some fail to realize is the dangers in work zones are not confined to just the workers themselves. In reality, four out of five deaths involving interstate construction sites are drivers, not workers.

The lesson? Driving slow and paying attention when going through work zones is safer for the workers as well as you and your family.

What else can drivers do to help prevent highway work zone car accidents? Safety experts say to always assume that there are workers in work zone even if you can't see any. In addition, avoid tailgating and keep your eyes focused on the road even if interesting construction is going on around you. Remember, you are driving through somebody's workplace and they depend on you to help keep them safe.



We Should ALL Go madd™

by Jeff Rasansky

As you may already know, our firm recently had the privilege of sponsoring and walking in MADD's two biggest fundraising opportunities in North Texas – the Dallas and Fort Worth Walk Like MADD events. Both days were a blast and raised thousands in much needed funds for alcohol awareness and victim services.

As somebody who assists drunk driving victims daily and feels strongly about drunk driving awareness and prevention, I can attest to the amazing things MADD does for our communities. It is more than awareness, I can assure you of that. For example, in 2008, MADD assisted 55,000 victims/survivors of drunk driving accidents. This included emotional support as well as resources to help with the legal, medical and financial ramifications of a drunk driving accident.

MADD also established a program to help put an end of underage drinking. Power of Parents, It's Your Influence is an internationally recognized program that provides resources and training for parents to reach out to their children to illustrate the dangers of underage and irresponsible drinking.

Recently, as part of a complete rebranding, MADD began a nationwide campaign calling for personal accountability and awareness. The basis of this message is that we are all Mothers Against Drunk Driving. It is not a gender or age issue, it's a community safety issue. Anybody can be a Mother if they do their part and dedicate themselves to drunk driving prevention.

It is important to understand that organizations like MADD can't do this alone. Even if you can't donate to the cause, you can still affect change. This means holding yourself, your friends and family members accountable for their actions and doing everything you can to keep drunk drivers off the road. No matter how difficult it can be at times.

Only when we ALL become mothers against drunk driving will we stop the unnecessary loss and pain caused by irresponsible and dangerous drivers. In the meantime, I consider it a blessing to be in a position to help an organization like MADD and a privilege to be able to fight on behalf of the victims and their families of these tragedies.

Spot a Drunk Driver on the Road?

Sometimes, we witness these drivers while we are driving, weaving in and out of lanes or traveling down a highway going the wrong direction. If you see a visibly intoxicated driver on the road, there is a distinct possibility of that person harming themselves or somebody else.

Quite often, responsible citizens are left asking themselves—what do I do?

If you spot a drunk driver, follow these tips from MADD

- 1.** Stay as far away from the other vehicle as possible.
- 2.** Do not try to pass the vehicle or signal the driver to pull over. Doing so could result in a collision.
- 3.** Take notice of the license plate number of the driver along with details of the vehicle including make, model and color. However, make sure you don't compromise your own safety trying to obtain this information.
- 4.** Pull over and call 911. Give the exact location of the vehicle, including the name of the road or cross streets and the direction the vehicle is traveling. Give a complete description of the vehicle and the manner in which the vehicle is being driven.

Once you have made a report, leave it up to the authorities to do their job.

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This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice and other issues, It is for informational 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 newsletter is copied in it's entirety.

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Introducing www.cplawhelp.com - Our Newest Resource for Parents

The parents of a child diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy will be faced with the biggest challenge of their life. Caring for a child with CP is a full-time endeavor that takes more than love. It takes patience, dedication and what often times can be a prohibitive amount of money. ***In fact, many parents will spend more than \$1 million by the time their child reaches the age of 18.***

Recognizing the financial hardships facing parents and the legal options some families may have available, Rasansky Law Firm created www.cplawhelp.com. This site was created specifically for parents who feel their child's CP was caused by a medical mistake or negligence.

The fact is, many instances of CP were caused by some form of medical malpractice and these families are entitled to financial help to ensure their child gets the special care they require.

If you are interested in learning more about CP and your legal options, visit the brand new www.cplawhelp.com today! If you would like more information about CP in general, visit our site, www.cerebral-palsy-information.com to watch videos, read article and request our free books on CP.

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CEREBRAL PALSY ATTORNEY

As a parent or guardian of a loved one who suffers from the debilitating effects of cerebral palsy, you already know all too well the hardships that accompany this condition.

You may also already be aware of how expensive it is to properly care for a child with CP. Adaptive technology, hospital visits, therapy and the myriad other treatments needed can add up to more than a million dollars before your child's 18th birthday.

Something most parents do not realize, however, is that many instances of cerebral palsy could, and should, have been avoided altogether. There are a number of factors that could have led to your child's condition and an experienced cerebral palsy lawyer will be able to tell you if it was a medical mistake or a case of negligence.

If your child is found to be a victim of a medical mistake, our cerebral palsy lawyers can help you to secure the financial help needed to ensure your loved one gets the treatment necessary for them to live the highest quality of life possible.

The cerebral palsy attorneys and legal team at Rasansky Law Firm have successfully represented families like yours and would love the opportunity to review your situation free of charge and under no obligation. Contact us today and let us help your family get the assistance it deserves.

Learn More >

Contact a Cerebral Palsy Attorney

BOOK YOUR FREE ENGLISH EVALUATION

The birth injury team at the Rasansky Law Firm has the experience with and knowledge of cerebral palsy needed to zealously represent and protect both your interests and your child's. If your child suffered a birth injury or was born with cerebral palsy, or if you need information about cerebral palsy or birth injury law, schedule a free, confidential consultation with an experienced cerebral palsy attorney by clicking the button above or calling us toll free at (877) 321-6159.

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