



## SUMMER HAZARDS AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS FOR CHILDREN

In my 47 years of practice, I have represented many children who have been seriously injured by dangerous products. Unfortunately, the same products continue to injure consumers and recalls by the manufacturers of these dangerous products have not been adequate.

**According to safety experts, the 10 most dangerous products that injure children are:**

- **Car Seats/Booster Seats** – Problems can include defective buckles, chest clips, insufficient padding, defective design, and inadequate instructions for installing and using car seats and booster seats.
- **Dressers/Furniture/Tip-over** – Unsecured furniture, such as dressers or bookshelves, TV's and other appliances can tip-over and cause injuries if climbed on by children. Since 2000, there have been 581 tip-over fatalities involving furniture, TVs, or appliances, of which 472 were children – 17 years and younger. The **“Sturdy Act”** forces furniture makers to take new safety measures to ensure that clothing storage units, like dressers, are less likely to tip onto children. **However, because the “Sturdy Act” is not retroactive, products manufactured before September 1, 2023, are not covered.**
- **Drop-Side Cribs** – In 2011, the CPSC banned drop-side cribs, but some are still sold at garage sales or other secondhand stores, even though doing so is illegal. Parents should make sure they do not purchase any cribs that has faced a recall. (Consumers can look up recalls at recalls.gov).
- **Hoverboard** – A Hoverboard is a two-wheeled motorized device, essentially a self-balancing scooter. Along with the risk of falling/tipping over, over 500,000 were recalled after reports of the devices exploding or combusting causing fires, injuring countless numbers of children. *To prevent fires, the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends not leaving hoverboards plugged in, charging overnight, or when nobody is home.*
- **Flammable Clothing** – Children's sleepwear or costumes made from flammable material can pose a fire hazard if exposed to ignition sources.
- **Rear Seat-Lap Belt Only Injuries** – Lap belt only type of seatbelts can cause spinal cord injuries, serious abdominal injuries, perforation of the intestines, facial fractures, closed head injuries, and death. The most vulnerable are small passengers, children and adolescents. **Starting in 2007, all cars are required to have the three-point seat belt in the middle rear seat.** This new requirement only pertains to new cars, and there are still millions of cars on the road that have the dangerous lap belts in the center rear seat.
- **Trampolines and Bounce Houses** – Trampolines and Bounce Houses have resulted in so many injuries that the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued a warning against home trampoline use. Children ages 5 years and younger face the greatest risk of TBI, SCI, fractures, and dislocations.
- **Button Batteries/Magnets-Small Toys** – Small round batteries often found in toys, remote controls, and other household items, can cause severe internal burns if ingested. Powerful magnets found in toys or desk accessories can cause serious internal injuries if swallowed.
- **Unsafe Playground Equipment** – Playground equipment that is poorly maintained, improperly installed, or not age-appropriate can lead to falls, entrapment, or other serious injuries.
- **BB Guns/Air Guns/Toy Guns** – Many BB guns are defective because BB's projectiles can become lodged in the magazine of the air guns, even though the air gun appears empty. Children have been killed after being shot in the head or chest, with what they believed was an “empty” gun.

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Consumer safety experts advise families not to discard or destroy any product that has injured their child. **Any product that injures your child should never be discarded, altered, or destroyed before an appropriate expert or your attorney can evaluate it.** Serious product injuries should be reported to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The CPSC will issue appropriate nationwide recalls to protect other children from injuries.

**According to consumer advocacy groups, the top ten most common summer hazards for children include:**

- **Drowning** – According to experts, 9 out of 10 drowning incidents occur during a brief lapse in supervision. Drownings are the second leading cause of injury-related deaths for children under age 14.

**Many drownings occur because of the following:**

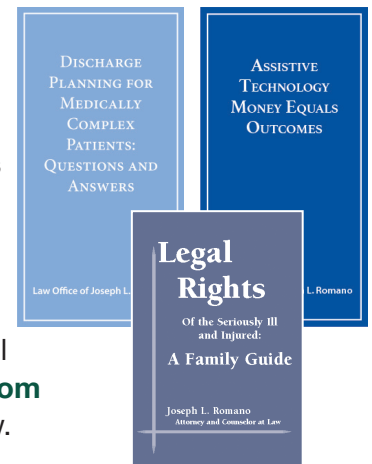
- No safety gates or locking mechanisms around the pool.
- Inattentive lifeguards
- Failure to have a phone in the pool area for emergencies.
- Failure to remove a portable ladder from an above-ground pool.
- **Water-related Accidents/Diving** – Apart from drowning, children can be seriously injured by diving or slipping and falling around pools and other water bodies.
- **Heat Stroke and Dehydration** – During the summer months, children quickly can develop heat stroke, a condition in which an individual's internal temperature – regulating system fails after enduring extremely high temperatures.
- **Inadequate Supervision** – Surveys indicate that up to 30% of parents send, or are planning to send, their children to summer camps, boy/girl scout camps, church groups, or school trips.
- **Pedestrian Accidents** – Developmentally, children under about age 10 cannot accurately access speed and distance. Experts indicate that even though a child may see a car coming down the street, they are cognitively unable to judge how quickly the car will reach them or how long it will take to cross the street.
- **Playground Injuries** – Falls from poorly maintained or defective playground equipment can result in injuries.
- **Bicycle Accidents** – Collisions with motorists are one of the most common causes of bicycle accidents, often resulting in severe injuries. Most bicycle accidents in children occur due to falls or a collision with cars.

- **Sports Injuries** – Participating in sports without proper warm-up, equipment, hydration or adequate supervision can lead to injuries.
- **Lawnmower Accidents** – Children can be injured if they get too close while the lawnmower is in operation, often leading to serious injuries/amputations.
- **Firework Injuries** – According to the CPSC, 39% of all firework injuries are caused by firework malfunctions. Most often fireworks used on July 4th celebrations include sparklers, spinners, fountains, firecrackers, bottle rockets, and roman candles. Negligently using these types of fireworks cause thousands of injuries and numerous deaths every year.

## CONCLUSION

Awareness of dangerous products and summer hazards, and taking appropriate precautions, such as child-proofing the home, supervising children during swimming/play, checking product recalls, storing hazardous products out of reach, can help prevent accidents and injuries. Being aware of these hazards, and taking appropriate precautions, can help ensure a safe and enjoyable summer for children.

To receive copies of the newsletter, brochures, copies of Mr. Romano's book entitled **Legal Rights of the Seriously Ill and Injured: A Family Guide**, or request a telephone consultation, please call **800-331-4134**, or email [info@josephromanolaw.com](mailto:info@josephromanolaw.com) or scan the QR code below.



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*Mr. Romano, along with qualified co-counsel, represents children and adults throughout the United States.*



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