

Petition

Via Fax

From the Florida Offices of **Leesfield Leighton Rubio** Trial Lawyers

Miami: 2350 South Dixie Highway, Miami, Florida 33133, Telephone: (305) 854-4900 / (800) 836-6400

Key West: 615½ Whitehead Street, Key West, Florida 33040, Telephone: (800) 836-6400

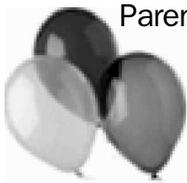
email: Leesfield@aol.com

No Kidding Around About Toy Safety

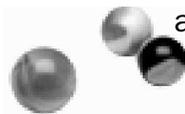


This time of year most thoughts turn to toys and gifts. Children receive millions of toys as holiday presents, and for the toy manufacturers and retailer this is the big payday. For parents, however, thoughts need to be directed to preventing injury and death.

As sobering as that sounds, over 150,000 children are treated in emergency rooms each year for injuries caused by toys. Toys killed 21 children in 1995. By far the most frequent injuries are due to choking and strangulation.



Parents should be most careful when it comes to small parts choking hazards. Often the danger is not obvious; very often the small part is an accessory or piece of the toy that comes off (for instance the eyes on a stuffed animal). Remember: *young children put virtually everything in their mouths.* Balloons and marbles are



among the most dangerous for children under 3.



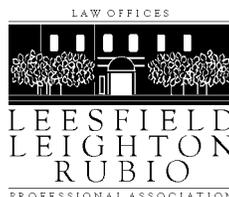
Experts have the following tips for parents to help prevent toy tragedies:

■ Examine and test the toys BEFORE the child does.

It sounds simple but many parents rely on manufacturers and retailers. Parents should test the toy, pull at it



and use it the way their child would. Children don't know how the toy was intended to be used, they just use it.





■ Follow age labeling on the toy.

By law all toys must carry a label identifying what age the toy is appropriate for. Do not allow children to use toys for older children even if the child is "advanced".

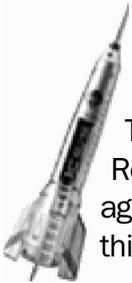
■ Discard all plastic wrappings.

Before they become deadly playthings, throw away all plastic and cellophane wrappings. Children are attracted to this and put it in their mouths.



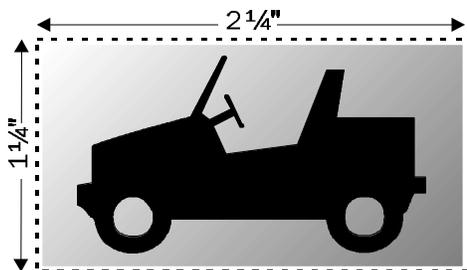
■ Avoid sharp edges, points or toys that are easily damaged.

Toys become weapons when damaged. Routinely inspect your child's toys for damage and discard if necessary. Look to see if this is a toy that can inflict harm.



■ Know if a toy or part is too small.

The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has established a safety standard for small parts for



children under three. A small part should be at least 1 1/4 inches in diameter by 2 1/4 inches

long. Anything smaller than that represents a choking hazard. For a free no-choke testing tube (put small parts in – if they fit inside it is too small), call Toys To Grow On at (310) 537-8600.

If you have questions, call the CPSC.

The CPSC maintains a toll free hotline: **1-800-638-2772**. You can also obtain their free consumer guide on selecting suitable toys. In 1996 the CPSC recalled 116 toy and children's products. With thousands of toys on the market, however, parents must remain vigilant.

Leesfield Leighton & Rubio Welcomes New York Attorney Robert Boyers to the Firm

Leesfield Leighton & Rubio welcomes New York attorney Robert Boyers as the newest addition to the **LLR** trial team. Rob was a prosecutor for 4 years in the Queens County, NY, District Attorney's office and practiced as a civil trial lawyer before that at a Manhattan law firm. Rob is no stranger to the South as he is an alumni of Emory Law School in Atlanta. He is a member of the bar in New York, Connecticut and now Florida. We look forward to Rob's continued success!



Toy Safety Web Sites

US Consumer Products Safety

Commission: gopher://cpsc.gov/00/broch

Toying with Childrens Safety:

<http://www.nsi.org/tips/childtoy.htm>

Live and Learn Toy Safety: <http://www.bcpl.lib.md.us/~hhirsch/toys.html>

Toy Safety: <http://www.detnews.com/menu/stories/28638.htm>

Crib Toys Safety Alert: http://www.meaccess.com/safe_alert/s_0032.htm

Consumer Products Safety Commission

Info: <http://www.parentsplace.com/readroom/cpsc/infouser2.htm>