

Petition Via Fax

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1.7 Billion Toys = 80,000 Injuries



American children receive almost \$1.7 billion toys annually, mostly during the holiday season. Special care and attention must be given in the selection of toys and games to protect against serious injury or even death, according to **LLR&M** partner **John Leighton**, who has litigated juvenile safety issues for

over a decade. Over 80,000 children under the age of five are treated annually in emergency rooms for toy related injuries. In 1996, 13 toy-related deaths were reported.

\$10 Million Dollars and Ten Years of ATV Litigation

For the past decade, **LLR&M** partner **Ira Leesfield** has been engaged in all terrain vehicle and motorcycle litigation throughout the United States resulting in over \$10 million of verdicts and settlements on behalf of seriously injured youngsters, many of whom received ATV and other recreational vehicles as holiday gifts. According to



Leesfield, it is not just the inherent danger of these vehicles, but parents give ATV's to children who are too young and inexperienced to handle the power of these vehicles. ATV's were marketed by major manufacturers as "toys" with deceptive information

in the promotional literature. All gifts to children should be age appropriate, according to **Leesfield**.



Toy Safety Web Sites

United States Consumer Product Safety Commission:
www.cpsc.gov

Kidsource:
www.kidsource.com/CPSC/toys/warning.html

United States Public Interest Research Group:
www.igc.apc.org/pirg/safety.htm

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Dangerous Toy Alert



In 1997, the Consumer Product Safety Commission recalled 239 toy and juvenile products. See <http://www.cpsc.gov>. The following toys have been identified as a possible threat of harm to children by the US Public Interest Research Group (PIRG):

Choking Hazards:

- *101 Dalmatians by Mattel*
- *Baby's First, Second and Third birthday balloons*. Uninflated balloons are a choking hazard. **Parents should never buy latex balloons for toddlers.**
- *Madeline Doll by Eden*. Doll's shoes present choking risk.
- *Bolt N Nut by Fun N Learn*. Bolts are choking hazard.
- *Arthur Toys. Arthur's Mom/Baby Kate/Dressed for School Arthur with lunch box by Playskool*. Choking on small accessory parts.



Toy Safety Considerations:

- *Sesame Street Pull Back N'Go Jet Plane*. Propeller can cause puncture wounds. Sharp edges. Brittle plastic or glass toys can break.
- *Loud noises*. Noise making toys can sometimes be so loud as to cause permanent hearing damage.
- *Sharp points*. These can impale a child or cause vision loss.
- *Propelled objects*. Flying toys can turn into weapons.
- *Electric toys*. Use only with adult supervision and use only by children over 8.
- *Wrong age*. Safe for older children but dangerous for the young.



Major Victory in High Chair Litigation

LLR&M's partners **Ira Leesfield and John Leighton** represented the family of a child who was killed when he "submerged" and was suffocated in a baby high chair. High chair manufacturers fail to warn parents that the feeding tray may not be used to restrain a baby. The safety straps provided by the manufacturer often are not used or will not secure the child. If a child is left momentarily unattended, he can slide against the tray and choke. This is a well known hazard to the juvenile furniture manufacturing industry. This case was settled during trial for a confidential amount. For further details on the case of *Tomlin v. Cosco*, please contact **Ira Leesfield** at:



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Car Seat/Air Bag Safety

In a recent landmark case, **LLR&M** partner **John Leighton** represented the parents of a baby killed by the deployment of an airbag. The parents received a child restraint as a baby shower gift. **Leighton** demonstrated that the seat came in a carton promoting front seat use. The baby's mother placed the child in the front seat in a rear facing position. When the airbag deployed, this 8-month child was killed.

For further details, including volumes of litigation, factual and technical research and investigation on child seat/airbag cases, please contact **John Elliott Leighton** at:

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