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THE PEOPLE'S VOICE

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INAUGURAL ISSUE

This is the inaugural issue of "The People's Voice" newsletter from the Keith Williams Law Group (WLG). We decided to start this publication as a way to continue serving our clients by keeping You—our clients, family and friends—updated and informed on interesting and important issues and situations that many of You will run into and have to deal with at some point in your lives.

Through our many years of practice, we have seen how a basic awareness can be instrumental in helping people avoid situations

that lead to lawsuits in the first place.

For example, a parent who is aware of safety recalls for his or her child's

"WE CONSIDER YOU A PART OF THE WLG FAMILY"

favorite toy can get rid of that toy before a tragic accident happens. While a lawsuit could get some level of monetary compensation and "justice" for the parent, it will never be able turn back the hands of time and bring back a loved one or undo a serious injury.

With this in mind, it is our hope to provide you with information that is

interesting, topical, and will hopefully empower you both to avoid situations leading to a lawsuit and to protect your rights when that is not possible. Whether a client whose case with us is active or long since resolved, or one of our many friends, we consider you a part of the WLG family and we hope this information will be useful in your life and the lives of those you love and care for.

-B. Keith Williams



WORKERS ENTITLED TO MEDICAL CARE

The foundation for the WLG began with a strong focus upon helping injured workers. That same focus still continues today.

As the new head of our Workers' Compensation (WC) Department, I take pride in assisting injured workers obtain proper medical treatment and

benefits according to Tennessee Law.

In light of new changes in the law, the most difficult challenge that injured workers are facing today is receiving proper medical treatment, which is something injured workers have the right to receive for their workplace injuries.

Over the next few installments of this newsletter, I will write about this and other important WC issues that can help you protect your rights.

-Jason G. Denton



PRACTICE AREAS

- **Auto Accidents**
- **Aviation Accidents**
- **Construction Accidents**
- **Dangerous Products**
- **Medical Malpractice**
- **Motorcycle Accidents**
- **Nursing Home Abuse**
- **Personal Injury**
- **Trucking Accidents**
- **Workers' Compensation**
- **Wrongful Death**

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LIST OF LEAD TOY RECALLS KEEPS GROWING

You can visit www.cpsc.gov for more specific information about these and other recalled items.



Dangers To Children

Potential Dangers to Children From Exposure to Lead Include:

- Decreased Intelligence (IQ) Scores
- Learning Disabilities
- Hyperactivity Attention Deficit Disorder
- Memory Problems
- Decreased Growth
- Poor Muscle Coordination
- Muscle and Joint Pain
- Impaired Hearing

Extremely High Levels of Lead in Children Can Cause:

- Seizures
- Coma
- Death

It seems that the list of toys that have been recalled due to violation of the lead paint standards continues to grow and grow. While the following is not a complete list, here are a number of the most recent additions to that list.

Tricam Industries Inc. Metal Toy Wagons sold at Tractor Supply Stores between September 2002 and November 2007.

AAFES "Soldier Bear" Toys sold at AAFES stores between August 2006 and October 2007.

Baby Toys Baby Bead & Wire Toys sold at Dollar Tree, Dollar Bills, and various other stores between March 2007 and October 2007.

Speed Racer Pull Back & Go Action! Cars sold at Dollar Tree, Dollar Bills, and various other stores between September 2007 and November 2007.

Children's Robbie Ducky Holiday Water Globes sold exclusively at Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores in Florida, Texas, Missouri and Georgia in November 2007.

Curious George Plush Dolls sold nationwide from December 2005 through August 2007.

Pull Back Action Toy Cars sold at Dollar General stores nationwide from April 2007 through October 2007.

Elite Operations Toys sold at Toys "R" Us stores nation-

wide between July 2007 and October 2007 for between \$10 and \$30.

Dragster and Funny Car toys sold at NHRA events through Schumacher Racing and door to door by Matco Tools representatives from March 2007 through September 2007.

Children's Toy Gardening Tools sold at Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores nationwide from January 2007 through September 2007 for about \$7.

Fisher-Price Go Diego Go Animal Rescue Boats sold nationwide from June 2007 through October 2007 for about \$15.

Children's Toy Decorating Set sold at Toys "R" Us stores nationwide and at toysrus.com from May 2007 through September 2007 for about \$10.

Baby Einstein Discover & Play Color Blocks sold nationwide from June 2007 through September 2007 for between \$10 and \$13.

Various Thomas and Friends Wooden Railway Toys sold nationwide from March 2003 through September 2007.

Various Fisher-Price Geo Trax Locomotive Toys sold nationwide September 2006 through August 2007.

A.A. of America Toy Wrestler Figures sold nationwide at various dollar and discount stores from January

2007 to December 2007.

Toy Vehicle Puzzle Sets sold exclusively by QVC from September 2002 through December 2007.

X Force Commander Toy Airplanes sold at Dollar Stores nationwide from September 2006 through November 2007.

Wire-O Bound Journals and Calendars sold online and at specialty and gift stores nationwide from August 2003 through December 2007 for between \$7 and \$10.

Children's Sketchbooks With Colored Spirals by eeBoo Corp. sold at specialty and gift stores nationwide from September 2005 through January 2008 for about \$6.

Cranium Cadoo Board Games sold at various locations nationwide between October 2007 and January 2008 for about \$20.

Hanging Photo Frames by The Gift Wrap Co. sold at Babies R Us stores nationwide between August 2007 and November 2007 for about \$10.

Tic Tac Turtle Toss Matts sold through the Discount School Supply website and catalogs from June 2007 through September 2007 for about \$40.

Tinker Bell Lamps by Kash N' Gold Ltd. sold at retailers nationwide from January 2007 through October 2007.

MEET THE NEWEST MEMBER OF WLG

The WLG would like to introduce the newest attorney in our group, Jim Stocks. Jim is a valuable addition to our group; we're glad to have him with us and wanted to introduce Jim to those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to meet him.

Jim comes to us by way of California, where he practiced law for five years before taking the big leap and moving from the big city to raise his children near family here

in Middle Tennessee.

Jim lives in Gallatin with his wife Jennifer and two children, Kaitlyn and Matthew. Jennifer is a teacher in the Sumner County school system, and his children attend elementary school there in Gallatin.

While we've nicknamed him "Sunshine" after the character in the movie "Remember the Titans" because of his blond hair and California origins,

Jim has truly taken to Tennessee and loves the combination of sophisticated law practice and small town living we enjoy here at the WLG.

Most of all, though, Jim has enjoyed meeting and getting to know our clients, something his practice in Los Angeles did not allow him to do. We think our clients, likewise, will enjoy getting to know Jim.

- B. Keith Williams



Jim "Sunshine" Stocks, the newest member of our team.

"THE ACT WOULD HAVE TAKEN AWAY THE MOST EFFECTIVE DETERRENT TO POOR QUALITY CARE"

THE "KILL OLD PEOPLE CHEAP ACT OF 2008"

The nursing home industry, including National HealthCare Corp. ("NHC") is supporting a bill in the Tennessee Legislature that they call "The Nursing Home Patient Protection Act of 2008."

To say that "Patient Protection" is the furthest thing from the actual intentions behind and effects of the Act would be a huge understatement.

In fact, Rep. Henry Fincher (D. Cookeville) called it the

"Kill Old People Cheap Act of 2008."

Essentially, the Act supported by NHC and the nursing home industry would have *limited* patients' rights in several important ways. First, it sought to place a limit on the amount of pain and suffering damages a plaintiff could recover.

It would also have allowed nursing homes to require that patients agree to arbitrate any claims rather than sue in

court, and would have placed legal restrictions on nursing home suits similar to those in medical malpractice claims.

The AARP and the Tennessee Association of Justice opposed the Act and its attempts to severely limit the rights of the elderly. As the Co-Chairman of the legislative committee for the Tennessee Association of Justice, I saw defeat of this bill as a priority for all who are elderly, otherwise in need of

long-term care, or have loved ones in nursing homes.

The Act would have taken away the most effective deterrent to poor quality care—the ability of patients to bring lawsuits potentially involving substantial damages for their injuries.

While it appears the Act has been successfully defeated this year, we will continue to fight it and any similar attempts in the future.

-B. Keith Williams

A LITTLE LOCAL HISTORY: SAM HOUSTON A LEBANON LAWYER

Toward the north end of town, one of our elementary schools here in Lebanon is named after Sam Houston—the same Sam Houston for whom Houston, Texas was named.

Some of you might be wondering why one of our schools would be named after a famous Texan. Well, it turns out that Sam Houston was raised in Tennessee. He also started his po-

litical and legal career in Tennessee.

Sam Houston was elected to Congress in 1823 and 1825, and in 1827 he was elected Governor of Tennessee.

His connection to Lebanon, however, began prior to that. In 1818 Houston studied law in Middle Tennessee and after passing the bar set up practice in Lebanon on the square.

While the log building that housed Houston's office is no longer there, a plaque on the square notes the location where it once stood. From those early beginnings, Houston went on to many interesting accomplishments, including becoming the only person to serve as governor of two different states: first Tennessee, and later Texas.

-Jim Stocks



Sam Houston

