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We Never Forget that  
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## THE CHILD SAFETY ISSUE:

*April 21-28, 2012 is  
Safe Kids Week*



### Basic Home Safety Tips

Each year, more than 830,000 children worldwide are killed and even more are permanently disabled as a result of unintentional and often preventable injuries.

Here are some basic household safety tips that can save your child from being injured while at home.

- Keep windows closed and locked when they are not in use—and install window guards to prevent falls.
- Make sure flat screen TVs are properly anchored on the wall.
- Secure top-heavy furniture that could tip over such as large appliances, TVs, fish tanks, bookcases and other heavy items that can fall on children.
- Keep children away from stoves and other hot items in the kitchen.
- Put sharp objects like knives and scissors away immediately after use.
- Pay close attention to children while they are in bathtubs and always keep one hand on them while bathing.
- Cover pools or hot tubs while not in use and lock gates around pool areas.
- **NEVER** leave children unattended.

### Parent Guide on Medication Storage Safety

An estimated 60,000 children per year are treated in emergency departments due to accidental medication poisoning. In many cases, children can get to medication while a parent or caregiver is not looking. Therefore, safe storage of medication is very important.

When giving your child medication, remember to:

- Always store medicines and even vitamins out of the reach and sight of children in a locked area.
- Use a schedule or log to help track when you give your child medicine.
- Buy child-resistant packages and securely close them after each use.
- Make sure your visitors who have medication with them store medicine up and away while visiting your home.
- Never leave any medicines out or on a counter.
- Keep the Poison Control Center number handy in case of an emergency situation: **1-800-222-1222**.

**Safe Kids reminds: Use it Right, Close it Tight & keep medication Out of Sight!**

#### Messa & Associates, P.C.

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## Parents Beware: Common Household Appliance Can Be Dangerous

An Oregon toddler recently drowned in his family's washing machine when his mother briefly left him alone in the laundry room. The child crawled into the washing machine and became trapped in the water-filled basin. He suffered severe brain damage and died the following day as a result.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, two children under the age of five died in laundry room related accidents between 2005 and 2009. Approximately 500 children suffered other injuries as a result of washing machine-related accidents. The children, mostly between the ages of 1 and 2, suffered various injuries including fractures, amputations and even drowning.

Most parents are unaware that the washing machine can be a danger to children. Children should always be supervised while in the laundry room and **NEVER** left alone. Experts say that parents should try to **keep children away from the laundry room** altogether. In addition to washing machine dangers, dryers can cause burns and other products commonly found in a laundry room present a host of other risks. Still, they encourage parents to **childproof the laundry room** and **invest in safety locks or knobs on the laundry room door**.

For more information or if your child has suffered a serious injury or death as a result of a household appliance, please contact Messa & Associates at 1-877-MessaLaw or visit us at [www.messalaw.com](http://www.messalaw.com) to discuss your case.

### Recent Settlements and Verdicts

Messa & Associates, P.C. obtained a confidential policy limit settlement on behalf of a nine-year-old girl who was sexually assaulted in a Philadelphia home day care center. The child was assaulted when her day care provider left the center and did not provide appropriate and qualified adult supervision to care for the children.

### When Medical Malpractice Involves Children

Children who suffer injuries as a result of medical errors are often left with injuries that will affect them for the rest of their lives. In many cases, they have limited ability to participate in activities as they grow older and can suffer emotional distress. In serious cases, injuries to children can result in amputation, paralysis, brain injury or death.

Injuries to children as a result of a medical error also cause an increase in medical expenses that the family will incur to care for the child.

For more information and other recent news, visit our blog at [www.messalaw.com/blog](http://www.messalaw.com/blog).

### Consumer News: *The Recall Report*

About 40,000 Topeak Babyseat II Bicycle Carrier Seats are being recalled following reports of children getting their fingers caught in a hinge on the seat and nearly having their fingers amputated. The Babyseats were sold in three styles: Babyseat, Babyseat with disc brake compatible rack and Babyseat with non-disc brake compatible rack.

The seats were sold at J&B Imports, REI, Action and Hawley, independent bicycle dealers, distributors and other retail stores nationwide and online at REI.com from January 2009 through April 2012 for between \$140 and \$180. Consumers should immediately stop using the seats.

Messa & Associates has handled dozens of cases involving serious injuries and death related to the use of defective products. If you or a loved one has suffered serious injury as a result a recalled product, please contact us at 1-877-MessaLaw or visit us at [www.messalaw.com](http://www.messalaw.com).

*"We know you want and **deserve** the best when it comes to representation. At Messa & Associates, we strive for nothing short of perfection."*

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