

Messa & Associates

TRIAL ATTORNEYS WITH A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS



**We Never Forget that
Behind Every Case,
are Real People**

Joseph L. Messa, Jr.
Richard J. Heliak
Irene M. McLafferty
Eric H. Weitz
Lee D. Rosenfeld
A. Christine Giordano, B.S.N.
Thomas N. Sweeney
Jenimae Almquist
Noelle L. Palazzo
Joanna B. Seidman
Anastasia M. Buccino-Roth
Matthew Y. Rong

Of Counsel

Andrew D. Swain
Steven Friedman, M.D.
Vincent DiCioccio,
B.S.C.E., M.S.C.E.
Richard Schwartz
Brian Kelly
Tom Margiotti
John Mininno

Messa & Associates
TRIAL ATTORNEYS WITH A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS

Messa & Associates Celebrate Fire Safety Month at Freire Charter Middle School



On October 25th, we visited Freire Charter Middle School to educate the students on fire safety.



Our special guest speaker was Harold B. Hairston, former Philadelphia Fire Department Commissioner. Mr. Hairston shared fire safety tips with the students and discussed the importance of having two ways out of their homes in the event of a fire. Nearly 500 students received photoelectric smoke detectors and fire safety information.



There are two different types of smoke detectors available—ionization smoke detectors and photoelectric smoke detectors. Ionization smoke detectors often fail to detect smoldering fires, which account for 80 percent of all household fires. Photoelectric smoke detectors are designed to detect both slow-burning fires as well as flash fires.

Messa & Associates, P.C.

123 S. 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103 • 877-MessaLaw • 215-568-3500
2091 Springdale Road, Suite 2, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003 • 856-810-9500
www.MessaLaw.com • MessaLaw.com/Blog • gheightower@MessaLaw.com

Recent Settlements and Verdicts

Confidential

\$3.5 Million settlement in Philadelphia County for the family of 58-year-old father who underwent surgery to repair a thoracic aneurysm.

Following surgery, the man suffered a blockage in his intestine which went undiagnosed and was left untreated. The man experienced symptoms of a blockage for several days after his surgery, including continued vomiting. The man eventually aspirated and died.

Consumer News: The Recall Report

Infant Death Leads to Recall of Infant Travel Beds

KidCo Inc. is recalling approximately 220,000 infant travel beds following reports that a 5-month-old baby boy died last year after being entrapped inside of the Pea Pod Travel Crib. Nine other children have also been injured or found in distress while inside of the sleep tents.

The Pea Pod Travel Crib has an air mattress that fits into a zippered pocket in the floor of the domed tent, which collapses to allow for easy transport. However, if the mattress is placed in the floor of the tent, an infant's head could lodge between the mattress and the tent's side, making breathing impossible and raising the risk of suffocation.

KidCo's president said the company has sold 220,000 of the travel beds since 2005. Safety advocates have warned parents against using the product citing the fact that it has not been tested for safe sleeping because it is not a crib, a bassinette or a play yard. Both the KidCo PeaPod Travel Beds and PeaPod Plus Travel Beds are being recalled. The travel tents were sold at independent juvenile specialty stores nationwide and online at Amazon.com from January 2005 through the present for between \$70 and \$100.

Messa & Associates has handled dozens of cases involving 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.

Fungal Meningitis Outbreak Update

The investigation into New England Compounding Center, the company who manufactured tainted steroid injections responsible for a 19-state fungal meningitis outbreak, continues as the number of reported cases climbs to 490.

The tainted steroids were used to treat patients who have chronic pain in patients who their back and joints such as knees, shoulders and hips. NECC shipped more than 17,000 vials of the tainted steroids to 24 states. So far, 34 patients have died as a result of fungal meningitis infections.

If you suspect that you received a tainted steroid injection and are experiencing symptoms of fungal meningitis, including fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea and vomiting, photophobia (sensitivity to light) and altered mental status, you should seek medical treatment immediately.

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

Messa & Associates
TRIAL ATTORNEYS WITH A REPUTATION FOR RESULTS

For more information, please call 1-877-MessaLaw or email ghightower@MessaLaw.com