



The People's Voice

Spring/Summer
2023 Newsletter



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Drunk Drivers to Pay Child Support for Children of Parents They Kill

Under a first-of-its-kind law, drunk drivers in Tennessee must now pay child support for the children of any parents they kill in a drunk driving accident. Now legislatures across the country are considering similar measures. It is meant to help discourage intoxicated drivers from getting behind the wheel, and to support those who must care for the children of drunk driving victims.

What is This Law?

The new law, known as Ethan's, Hailey's and Bentley's Law, is an anti-drunk driving measure targeted at those who kill the parents of minor children. In effect, anyone who is convicted of vehicular homicide or aggravated vehicular homicide in the state of Tennessee can

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Highway Fatalities Up By 22%, Due to Distracted Driving

The number of highway fatalities shot up by 22% in 2022, according to statistics released by the National Safety Council (NSC). This dramatic increase in the

number of motor vehicle deaths on America's highways has been attributed to an increase in distracted driving.

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**We truly appreciate you referring your friends and family to us.
We promise to always take good care of them!**



Highway Fatalities Up By 22% , Due to Distracted Driving

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Drunk Drivers to Pay Child Support for Children of Parents They Kill

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be forced to pay child support for any children of the people they killed, until they are 18 years old. This is in addition to any other potential criminal consequences of drunk driving, including incarceration and the suspension or revocation of their license to drive.

Why Was the Law Passed Now?

While drunk driving has been a problem for decades, the rate of self-reported DUI has gone up by as much as 24% in the past two years. This has led to a higher risk of drunk driving accidents, as well as an increase in automobile fatalities.

What Do the Statistics Say?

According to the NSC, there were approximately 46,000 highway fatalities last year, up 22% compared to 2021. Of these fatalities, it is estimated that between 25% and 30% involve a distracted driver. However, this number is difficult to estimate because the tools for figuring out if someone was distracted while driving are limited.

Why is This Happening?

The COVID-19 pandemic saw an overall increase in the number of motor vehicle fatalities across the board, with various reckless driving habits becoming more common. Unfortunately, distracted driving is one of these habits, with an increasing number of drivers using their cell phone or other electronic devices while they are driving. According to the survey, as much as 77% of the population used a cell phone while driving, including to look up maps, read a text or email, or to update social media.

Why is Distracted Driving Becoming More Common?

One of the reasons that distracted driving is becoming more common is that too many people do not take the issue seriously, with as much as one-third of people saying they were not concerned about the use of cell phones while driving. That attitude is dangerous given that more devices are now available in vehicles, such as TV screens, which can be distracting for drivers.

What is Being Done to Address the Issue?

In order to try to bring down the rate of highway fatalities, safety advocates are trying a number of steps, including pushing for manufacturers to add safety features that prevent distractions. These include, for example, software that can turn off certain features on devices that may provide a distraction to a driver. There is also an increased effort to bring public awareness to the issue of distracted driving, which continues to be a serious threat to public safety.



What Should You Do if You Have Been Injured in an Accident?

If you have been injured as a result of someone else's negligence, you should contact the Tennessee personal injury lawyers at the Keith Williams Law Group at 615-444-2900.



Top Case Results

Members of Keith Williams Law Group successfully represent real people like you and your friends and families. These cases entail various wrongful death and personal injury matters. Listed below is a history of some of our most successful outcomes. As always, in describing these cases, all our clients' identities are kept in strict confidence.

Client Testimonials

“Mr. Keith Williams and his staff conducted our case with dignity and fairness. They went beyond and above their duty. They kept us informed on what was going on. Should we need another attorney, we will definitely contact them.”

— Elisabeth Wilch



“Mr Williams and his firm is outstanding. They helped me with a claim and did a great job. I highly recommend them.”

— Peter Maynard



“I am very happy with the results that Keith Williams and his group of attorneys and paralegals obtained for me in my case. I also appreciated how well the office communicated with me to let me know what was happening and what I could expect and when. It went a long way towards helping me through a stressful time. I wouldn't hesitate to refer someone to Keith Williams Law Group, they deliver good results.”

— Dudley Blankenship

Motorcycle Accident

\$14,657,123 JURY VERDICT

A jury reached a verdict of \$14,657,123 in damages for a client whose leg had to be amputated after being sideswiped by a negligent driver. Our client suffered severe and extremely painful injuries as a result of the wreck, and the jury rejected the defendant's attempt to claim no fault for the wreck in reaching a verdict to compensate our client for the harm he suffered.

Trucking Accident

\$8,300,000 SETTLEMENT

We were able to obtain a \$8,300,000 settlement from a national trucking company for a severely injured young man. The driver of the Big Rig fell asleep at the wheel and crossed into oncoming traffic, where he crashed into our client's vehicle and caused the life-changing injuries to our client.

Car Accidents

\$6,200,000 JURY VERDICT

A jury awarded \$6,200,000 to compensate our client for the harm caused by the defendant in a motor vehicle accident that resulted in a lost limb. The defendant denied responsibility for the wreck and denied the severity of the harm caused to our client. The verdict in favor of our client is believed to be the largest verdict awarded by a jury in the county where it happened.

Construction Zone Accident

\$6,995,500 SETTLEMENT

A \$6,995,500 settlement was reached for the wrongful death of a construction worker who was hit and killed on a Tennessee highway. The defendant trucking company denied its driver was liable for hitting and killing the worker, and it attempted to minimize the value of the deceased construction worker's life. Prior to trial, however, defendant agreed to settle the case rather than take it before a jury.

DISCLAIMER: The results are specific to the facts and legal circumstances of each of the clients' cases and should not be used to form an expectation that the same results could be obtained for other clients in similar matters without reference to the specific factual and legal circumstances of each client's case.



Five Major Risk Factors

That Make Aviation Accidents More Likely

It is said that flying is the safest way to travel, and statistically speaking, that's true: airplanes have the lowest rate of injuries and deaths per year, compared to other forms of travel. That does not mean flying is completely free from danger, however, and certain problems can make the chances of an accident much more likely. Here are five major risk factors that can make aviation accidents more likely:

1 Poor weather conditions
One of the biggest problems that aircraft pilots face is inclement weather. Not only can it hamper visibility, it can interfere with the safe operation of the craft, potentially blowing it off course or causing damage to the craft itself. While most pilots try to avoid flying during inclement weather, they do not always heed the weather forecast, leading to aviation accidents.

2 Badly maintained aircraft
Aircraft can be incredibly difficult and costly to maintain, but it is necessary. The parts on planes and helicopters can wear out quickly, and the longer they go without adequate maintenance, the more likely they are to suffer mechanical problems. Many aviation accidents could be avoided if only their owners or pilots performed the proper maintenance.

3 Defective aircraft parts
Even when an aircraft is adequately maintained, it might still suffer a serious mechanical failure if one or more parts turn out to be defective. These defects are supposed to be detected during manufacturing, but there is always the risk that a bad part will find its way into an aircraft. When that happens, the risk of aviation accidents dramatically increases.

4 Air traffic control errors
Every aircraft is dependent on the instructions from air traffic control to be able to take off and land without fear of an accidental collision. Unfortunately, air traffic controllers are often overworked and understaffed, which dramatically increases the chances of a mistake. And when air traffic controllers make mistakes, aviation accidents become much more likely.

5 Pilot error
Pilots are key to every aspect of aviation safety, and not just while they are flying the plane. Following appropriate steps to ensure that the plane is safe to fly are critical for ensuring the safety of everyone on the plane. When pilots make mistakes, they dramatically increase the likelihood of aviation accidents.

If you have been injured as a result of someone else's negligence, you should contact the Tennessee personal injury lawyers at the Keith Williams Law Group at 615-444-2900.

How Could You Be Exposed to Toxic Chemicals in Your Daily Life?

Every day, people go about their lives with the general assumption that the buildings they live and work in, the products they use, and the food they eat will be safe. However, just about any of these things could potentially be contaminated with toxic chemicals, which can cause potential illness or injury, and even cause long-term health problems. But how could you be exposed to toxic chemicals in your daily life?

What Kinds of Toxic Chemicals Could You Encounter in Daily Life?

Certain chemicals, like benzene or phthalates, are commonly used in industrial processes and thus can be found in many kinds of consumer

products. Heavy metals, such as lead or mercury, can often be encountered in certain types of toxic waste, and old buildings may contain toxic building materials. Food and medicine can also become contaminated with toxins as a result of errors in the manufacturing process.

How Can Toxic Chemicals Potentially Harm You?

Toxic chemicals can cause a wide variety of potential health problems, depending on the specific chemical. Some can have immediate and obvious negative health consequences. Others, however, may not show the damage they cause until months or years later, manifesting as cancer and other long-term health problems.

What Should You Do if You Are Exposed to Toxic Chemicals?

If you or someone you love has been exposed to toxic chemicals, your first course of action is to immediately seek medical attention. This will not only help to address your health problems, it can also establish evidence of medical damages in any ensuing legal battles.



If you have been injured due to toxic chemical exposure, you should contact the Tennessee personal injury lawyers at the Keith Williams Law Group at 615-444-2900.

RECALL

Recalls—Consumer Safety Alert

BISSELL® Cordless Multi-Surface Wet Dry Vacuums Models 2551R and 25518

The circuit board inside the vacuum's battery pack can overheat and smoke, posing a fire hazard.

Jetson Electric Bikes Recalls 42-Volt Rogue Self-Balancing Scooters/Hoverboards

The lithium-ion battery packs in the self-balancing scooters/hoverboards can overheat, posing a fire hazard and cause injury or death.

Delta Enterprise Corp. Recalls 2-in-1 Outdoor Kids Swings

The swing seat restraint straps can break, posing a fall hazard to young children.

JBM International Electric Recalls Adult Bike Helmets, Sold Exclusively on Amazon.com

The recalled helmets do not comply with the positional stability and labeling and certification requirements of the U.S. CPSC federal safety standard for bicycle helmets. The helmets can fail to protect in the event of a crash, posing a risk of head injury.



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Keith Williams has been recognized as the top 5% of attorneys on the Mid-South Super Lawyers List!

Keith Williams has been recognized for the 9th consecutive year as one of the top 5% of attorneys on the Mid-South Super Lawyers List! For the last 28 years, the Keith Williams Law Group has dedicated its practice to helping people and their families with cases regarding accidents, personal injuries, and wrongful deaths.



Practice Areas:

- Auto Accidents
- Big Truck Accidents
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Aviation Accidents
- Construction Accidents
- Personal Injury
- Wrongful Death
- Dangerous Products

Attorney Advertising. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. This newsletter is published by the Keith Williams Law Group as an informational service to our past and present clients, friends, and family. It is for informational purposes only and no legal advice is intended. Each case is different and should be reviewed on its own individual facts and circumstances.

We promise to always take good care of the friends and family you refer to us!



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