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THE VAUGHAN LAW REPORT

SUMMER
2016

Consumer alert

The following summer products have been recalled:

STIHL gas-powered edgers, trimmer/brushcutters, pole pruners and KombiMotors

The gasoline tank vent can become dislodged due to incorrect factory installation and cause fuel to leak, posing a fire hazard. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled products and return them to an authorized STIHL dealer for a free inspection and repair.

Contact: stihlusa.com, click "Product Recalls."

Burley Design child bicycle trailers

Trailers with black plastic tow bar receivers can separate from the tow bar when they appear to be connected, posing a crash hazard to the child in the trailer. Consumers should stop using the bicycle trailers and contact Burley for a free safety strap kit with tools and instructions. Consumers should also inspect the black plastic tow bar receiver. If it appears to be cracked or damaged, consumers should request a free replacement tow bar receiver.

Contact: 800-311-5294 or visit burley.com and click "Recall Information."

GE Zoneline air conditioners and heating units

Moisture from outdoor air can accumulate near the unit's heater when the unit is operated with the vent door continuously open. This, along with two shorted electrical components, can create a risk of fire. Consumers should contact GE to schedule a free repair.

Contact: 866-723-2697 or visit geappliances.com/products/recall.

Pier 1 Imports Katerina outdoor patio swivel armchairs

The swivel armchair can tip backward while rocking and consumers can fall. Consumers should stop using the armchairs and return them to any Pier 1 Imports store for a full refund or store credit.

Contact: 800-245-4595 or visit pier1.com, click "Product Notes & Recalls" at bottom of page.

Source: cpsc.gov



Vaughan Law Group Attorneys At Law

Thomas Vaughan has been recognized as...

- one of the nation's top 100 injured workers' attorneys by WILG (Workers' Injury Law and Advocacy Group).
- one of the top lawyers in Florida by The Legal Network.
- one of Orlando's top lawyers by *Orlando Home & Leisure*.

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If you need help filing a claim, or if your workers' compensation claim has been denied, call a qualified lawyer to discuss your case.

Personal injury law myths

Myths abound when it comes to the legal system, and in particular personal injury attorneys—oddly enough, the ones who protect the "little guy." The legal system isn't about the big paydays (though they happen and the news media runs with the stories); it is about helping to provide justice for people who have been injured and need protection. Thanks to TV and selective coverage by news outlets, several myths persist about personal injury attorneys:

➔ Myth 1: Attorneys are just ambulance chasers.

FACT: While it makes for funny hospital scenes on TV, approaching victims or their loved ones at the scene of or shortly after an accident is prohibited under the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct. Attorneys may prospect by reaching out to an accident victim, but it should be well after the accident and with the offer of a case evaluation, never with a promise of big money and a neck brace to fake injuries, as some TV reports would have you believe.

➔ Myth 2: Hiring an attorney is too expensive.

FACT: Personal injury attorneys most often work on a contingency fee. Clients don't pay money up front, and attorneys only get paid if the case settles or wins in court. Do keep in mind that clients may be responsible for costs

associated with the case, such as fees for medical records, postage, copying, and other expenses.

➔ Myth 3: My case isn't big enough, and my injuries aren't severe enough.

FACT: Attorneys care about recovering fair compensation for their clients. Not every injury is catastrophic, but even minor injuries are costly. Being thankful it wasn't worse won't pay the bills or rehab for a so-called minor injury.

➔ Myth 4: I will be financially devastating the defendant.

FACT: It is most likely that the individual's or company's insurance will pay, not the individual person or business.

If you've been injured and aren't sure whether you have a case, please contact our office for a free case evaluation.

We take your family's safety and security personally.

Need energy and hydration?

Energy drinks may not be the answer



As temperatures soar, energy drinks, with their cool packaging and promise of boundless energy, may be a tempting choice to stay hydrated and active in the heat. You may be surprised to know that energy drinks sent more than 20,000 people to the emergency room in 2011 and 11 percent were hospitalized, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. You may be surprised to know that most energy drinks aren't considered drinks at all, but dietary supplements. As such, the drinks do not have to follow the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's caffeine restrictions.

Energy drinks contain up to 10 times the caffeine (plus other ingredients that offer a caffeine effect) of a regular cola, and some consumers end up in the ER with problems such as heart palpitations, dehydration, and heat exhaustion. Consumption

has also caused cardiac arrest and stroke, resulting in brain damage and death. A typical 24-ounce energy drink may contain 240 mg of caffeine, which is slightly below what is safe for healthy adults to consume. Energy drinks are typically marketed to teens and young adults.

Still tempted to pop open a can? New research published in the Journal of the American Medical Association shows that just one 16-ounce energy drink can increase blood pressure and stress hormone responses significantly, and can increase the risk of cardiovascular events in young adults.

It may not seem as exciting, but water is the best way to quench your thirst, and tea or coffee is a much safer way to get moving in the morning or beat the mid-afternoon slump.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

4					2			
						1	6	
		7	1			8		
						9		
	1	9		8	4			
		2			9		7	
	4	8					5	
	3		5					2
			3					

Sudoku solution

1	7	5	3	2	8	6	4	9
9	3	6	5	4	1	7	8	2
2	4	8	9	6	7	3	5	1
3	5	2	6	1	9	4	7	8
6	1	9	7	8	4	2	3	5
7	8	4	2	5	3	9	1	6
5	9	7	1	3	6	8	2	4
8	2	3	4	9	5	1	6	7
4	6	1	8	7	2	5	9	3

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Be sure to choose a daycare wisely

When choosing a daycare facility, parents seek out a location close to home or work with happy-looking kids and staff. While that is a great place to start, be sure to visit the facility several times, at least once while the facility is in operation. Take note if it has any state or industry credentials, ask for references, and talk to other parents. It's probably not realistic to think that your little one won't fall down and get a few bumps, bruises, but your daycare is obligated to provide an environment that is reasonably safe. When it comes to accident-prone children and superprotective parents, what exactly does this mean?

NEGLIGENCE

If your child falls down and fractures their arm, you may want to hold the facility responsible for personal and financial reasons. If the injury occurred when a 3-year-old child fell off a tricycle while being supervised in an area free of obstacles

and on a tricycle that was in good shape, the facility most likely provided a reasonable standard of care to prevent accidents. If the duty of providing reasonable care was broken—there were toys, sticks, debris, or other obstacles on the riding area; the tricycle was broken; or there was little or no supervision—then the facility could be found negligent.

Likewise, the inside of a daycare is full of loud children, small toys, bottle warmers, shelving full of toys and books, and all sorts of things that can be dangerous if strict procedures and supervision aren't followed and provided.

ABUSE AND NEGLECT

If, however, you suspect or witness abuse, whether it is sexual, physical, or emotional, or see signs of neglect, contact the police right away or call the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline at **1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)**.