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## LEAD POISONING IN CHILDREN: a scary source

When we hear the words lead poisoning and children, we often think of lead-based paint from older homes as the main culprit, and with good reason. Even though lead-based paint was banned in 1978, it is still a problem in 25 percent of U.S. homes with kids under the age of 6.

However, lead from a different source is now believed to be responsible for about 30 percent of all childhood lead poisoning cases: *Kids toys and jewelry.*

A recent study showed that over 3 million toys, mostly manufactured in China, were recalled during a 14-month period due to having excessive amounts of lead.

Lead poisoning in children can result in learning disabilities, behavior difficulties, speech delays, hearing loss, ADHD, and aggression. To make matters worse, children with lead poisoning often don't show any early apparent symptoms.

As parents, what can you do to help protect your kids?

- Discard all brightly painted toys that come from Pacific Rim countries, particularly China, especially if the paint is peeling or chipped or if the toy fits in the child's mouth.
- Keep a close eye on toy recalls announced by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and sign up for e-mail alerts from the CPSC about future recalls.
- Discard ceramic or pottery toys not made in the U.S.
- Take all metal jewelry from your children. If there is something that you absolutely need to keep, have it tested for lead.
- Purchase only crayons that are soy-based.

If you are worried about possible lead poisoning in your children, you can have them screened with a blood lead level test that is quick and inexpensive. It is recommended that all children under the age of 6 be tested annually. ■

For more information on how to protect your children, contact the Georgia Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (GCLPPP) at 404-463-3754 or 888-247-9054.

# HIP REPLACEMENT SYSTEM recalls

The decision to have hip replacement surgery was not an easy one to make. After years of pain that increased over time, you finally talked to your physician. You felt reassured when you were told that many people were experiencing great relief after the surgery, rediscovering mobility that they had long since lost because of aging joints. In fact, your doctor said that you could be more active for 10-15 years, the usual life expectancy for the mechanical parts used to replace damaged bone and cartilage.

But not every hip replacement surgery is a success story. Recently, physicians have reported that some of the metal parts used to reconstruct the hip replacement joints are defective, causing symptoms ranging from pain to severe and permanent injury. In most cases, another surgery is required to remove and replace defective parts.

The following manufacturers have recalled or stopped selling their hip replacement products in the US:

- Biomet Hip Replacement System
- Johnson & Johnson DePuy ASR Hip Replacement System
- Stryker Trident Hip Replacement System
- Zimmer Durom Hip Replacement Cup

If you have had hip replacement surgery and are experiencing hip pain, are having difficulty walking, hear squeaking in the joint or have unexplained discomfort, this might be the result of defective implants from one of these manufacturers and you may be entitled to compensation for your injuries. Contact an experienced personal injury lawyer to protect your rights. ■

# it's flu season

## KNOW WHO'S AT HIGHEST RISK

With flu season upon us, we wanted to take a moment to remind everyone about the importance of getting your annual flu vaccination.



Seasonal flu is very unpredictable and its severity can vary from year to year depending on a variety of factors such as which flu viruses are spreading, how much vaccine is available (and when), how many people get vaccinated, and how well the flu vaccine matches the actual viruses causing the flu.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the following groups are at highest risk for developing complications from the flu:

- Children under the age of 5, especially those younger than 2.
- Adults over the age of 65.
- Pregnant women.
- People with certain medical conditions, including asthma, neurological and neuro-developmental conditions (such as disorders of the brain, spinal cord, or peripheral nerve, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, stroke, intellectual disability, muscular dystrophy), chronic lung disease, heart disease, blood disorders (such as sickle cell disease), endocrine disorders, kidney disorders, those with HIV or AIDS, people who are morbidly obese, and many other medical conditions.

Earlier this year, vaccine experts voted that everyone over the age of 6 months should get a flu shot each year beginning with the 2010–11 flu season. Check with your healthcare professional or local pharmacist to see about getting your vaccination. ■

**For Georgia flu information, including current activity levels, please go to [www.health.state.ga.us](http://www.health.state.ga.us).**

# taking a trip this holiday season?

## BEWARE OF SCAMS

With an estimated 41 million people expected to be traveling this upcoming holiday season, it's one of the busiest times of the year for family vacations and trips. Unfortunately, it's also a busy time for holiday travel scams.

The best way to keep yourself from being duped is to be aware of some of the common tactics and "special offers" that crooks use to take advantage of you.

According to a recent CBS News report, here are some scams you might encounter:

- You make plans to travel to Europe and track down a travel website that offers you an unbelievable rate on a hotel room. For payment, though, the site wants a bank or wire transfer and won't let you pay with a credit card — definite signs of a scam.
- You receive an e-mail that indicates you've won a free stay at a Caribbean hotel. Once you call the number to get your prize, you find that you have to book your airfare through the agency which is handling the

"winners", which may cost you a couple thousand dollars. If you actually go through with the trip, you may find that the hotel is not even close to the beach or that you are subjected to high-pressure timeshare presentations.

- An e-mail arrives that supposedly is from one of your friends who is traveling in Europe. The "friend" says that his wallet was stolen and that he can't pay his hotel bill. Guess what happens next? You're asked to wire money. Don't do it.
- Your favorite college football team lands a spot in a big bowl game. You find a great package deal to the game, pay your money and then make the trip. One small problem — your travel package included airfare and a hotel, but it didn't have any tickets to the game and now you end up watching the big game in your hotel room!

Travel scams continue to happen for one reason — they work sometimes. Don't let yourself or your loved ones become a victim. ■

## What Our Clients Are Saying

"I appreciate the work done by Dover Law Firm on my personal injury case. They were very thorough. When my former insurance company refused to pay, my attorney, who had already laid the groundwork, filed the case and the insurance company gave us what we were asking for just days later. I felt like I was in good hands. Not only was the Dover Law Firm recommended to me, but I would, in turn, recommend them to anyone needing a personal injury lawyer."

—K. Bundrant

## What if I'm in an accident and the other driver doesn't have insurance?

First, don't be shocked if this happens to you. The reality is that many people do drive without insurance or have let their auto insurance policies lapse. If you have an accident with an uninsured driver, you may be able to collect compensation from your own insurance policy through your underinsured or uninsured motorist (UM or UIM) coverage. Most people do not carry nearly enough UM/UIM coverage, though, to protect them in the event of a serious accident. If you have questions about what UM/UIM coverage levels you should carry (or any other insurance questions), please call our office and ask for our FREE, no-obligation insurance policy review. Make sure your family is protected. ■

# FAQ



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## flu season



**ARE YOU AT HIGH RISK?  
SEE PAGE TWO.**

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# Merry Christmas

As another year comes to a close, everyone at the Dover Law Firm would like to extend to you best wishes for a joyous and safe holiday season, and we hope that the New Year brings you peace and happiness.

We are truly grateful to all of our clients, friends and associates who have made this year so special.