

## **Attorney/Lawyer Samples**

### **How Can You Prevent Child Injury In A Car Accident?**

It's no secret how far automotive safety technology has come. However, car accidents are still a serious problem. They are the leading cause of death when it comes to the youth population.

Yes, technology can without a doubt help make roads safer. However, technology is only one piece to the puzzle. It in and of itself cannot keep the roads safe. There are certain things we can do as drivers to help keep not only ourselves safe, but also our child passengers safe.

Child passenger safety is a very serious problem. In 2011 over 600 children under the age of 12 were killed in traffic related accidents. Add that to the fact over 100,000 additional children are seriously injured in traffic related accidents and you see just how serious this problem is. The biggest thing contributing to these numbers is a lack of safety restraints being used.

### **Parents are a Huge Risk Factor**

The saddest part is the parents are usually the biggest risk factors in fatal accidents involving their children. About two-thirds of children killed in accidents were being driven by their intoxicated parents. In addition, most children don't wear their seat belts because their parents don't wear theirs.

### **How can you prevent your child from being injured in a car accident?**

One of the best ways to prevent these sorts of accidents is to educate more people on how to keep children safe while riding in a vehicle. The Community Preventive Services Task recommends car seat distribution, which is a great idea. Giving out car seats to those who might not be able to afford them is a great way to keep more children safe.

There are also some states that have increased the age requirements for when a child should no longer be required to sit in a car seat or booster. When states increase the age limit studies show the number of children being restrained increases by three times. That in turn means the number of children being killed in car accidents drops.

Always make sure you use the right car seat for your child's weight and size. This alone can reduce the number of unwanted injuries.

As a licensed car accident attorney in Las Vegas my number one goal is to help reduce the number of preventable injuries and accidents happening in this community. I am also here to help victims of reckless or negligent driving. If you feel you have a case please contact us for a consultation.

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## **Which Car Accident Injuries are most likely after an Accident?**

Car accidents are not only mentally traumatizing to a victim but they can cause a number of physical issues. Some injuries can be minor while others can last a lifetime. Here are some of the most common injuries most likely to happen after a car accident.

### **Facial injuries**

Car accident victims may require dental surgeries and cosmetic repairs from facial injuries. They can injure their face and jaw in the windshield, shattered glass, with the air bag, on the dashboard or with a car seat. It's very easy to injure the face and costs thousands of dollars for surgeries to repair these injuries.

### **Spinal cord and neck injuries**

Many people experience whip lash from a car accident. Usually, whip lash is less serious while others have experienced severe problems like disc injuries and cervical radiculopathy (a pain in the neck that can cause weakness and numbness down through the arms). These serious injuries will require rehabilitation and possible surgery to reach a full recovery. Car accident victims may not even experience pain or symptoms of a neck or back injury until some time has passed after the accident.

### **Brain Injuries**

One of the most serious injuries coming from car accidents is a brain injury. They are also the most common type of injury. What makes them so dangerous, like neck and back injuries, symptoms don't often surface until time has passed. With a brain injury, there may not be symptoms, but there could be internal bruising, which is dangerous if untreated. Some people even get a mild concussion and don't realize it immediately.

Another issue that some victims experience with long-term brain injuries is time missed at work and handling daily tasks. This type of injury can also lead to the need for long-term care, which can be very expensive.

### **Mental Injuries**

Not only are physical injuries prevalent in car accidents, but also psychological injuries. Sometimes death occurs and this can be psychologically dangerous to the surviving victims. Victims may have to talk to a therapist for post-traumatic stress disorder or they may experience short-term effects of the accident.

While car accidents can be stressful and frightening enough, the victims of the crash have to cope with physical and mental injuries that can occur, as well. Victims are most likely to experience facial and jaw injuries, neck and back injuries, brain injuries and psychological damage.

If you or someone you love has suffered serious injuries in a car accident, contact Hunt Law Offices today for a free consultation.

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## **Can you Get Divorced if You Can't find Your Spouse?**

I can't find my spouse but I want to file for a divorce. Are you in this situation? What do you do? When your spouse is out of state or you simply don't know their whereabouts, how do you file for divorce?

Typically divorce papers have to be delivered by mail or in person but if you don't have an address, this isn't possible. You need to basically file for divorce "by publication." This means you need to hire a divorce attorney and take the following steps.

### **Here's what you should do**

First you need to retain a divorce attorney. They will help you file for the divorce. Once you file, the attorney will try to have your original petition for divorce served to your husband or wife. They will do this by serving it to your husband or wife at the last known address for him or her.

If your spouse happens to have relatives living nearby, the attorney will send service to their addresses as well to increase the odds of reaching him or her.

### **What if my attorney can't locate my spouse?**

If you still have no luck, your attorney will serve him or her "by publication." What does "divorce by publication" mean? There will be a notice of intent for divorce run in the local newspaper. Some states will require specific information included in there, so except to include:

- Notice that a case for the divorce was filed
- Your name, your attorney's name and the name of the court
- A description of marital property that would be affected by the divorce
- And advising that judgement by default will be entered against your spouse if there is no response within a certain period of time, usually 30-45 days from the date of publication of the notice which should run once a week for a four week period

You can then proceed with the divorce process if there is no response in the allotted timeframe. You'll most likely get the divorce, custody of children and any property acquired during the marriage.

Each state works differently, but this is the basic idea of what would happen when filing for divorce from a missing spouse.

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## **Blended Families Estate Planning - What Should You Know?**

If you've found yourself entering your second marriage and you're a bit older, it's time to make sure you are making wiser decisions. Second marriages usually present blended families which can be complicated when it comes to estate planning.

Knowing that someday something could happen to you and that your spouse and kids will be forced to work out the details is a horrible idea. After your last divorce, it should be clear that the aftermath of

losing someone is complicated if planning ahead wasn't done. Take care of estate planning now and your new blended family will thank you for it. Here is a look at what you need to know.

### **Where to begin**

Start with communicating with your spouse about the current financial situation and your goals. Let him or her know how you'd want your assets distributed and keep in mind that it will be a hard conversation to have. Adult children should be involved if you are comfortable with it. Consult an estate planning attorney before you remarry to assess your options. If you've already married, that's okay; what's important is making a plan of some sort now.

The priority is ensuring each spouse's share of the estate ends up with the desired beneficiary and that children from past relationships are protected. Typically, estate planning distributes an estate to the spouse and then the children so the surviving spouse could easily amend the documents to disinherit someone like the deceased spouse's children.

### **Trusts and Power of Attorney**

When you bring a significant asset into a marriage, make sure you've set up a separate property trust before you get married to ensure it goes to your beneficiary. Also establish a joint trust with your spouse that has protections for the children.

Name a trusted individual to manage your financial affairs and legal decisions by appointing a power of attorney. Make sure previous POA's are revoked and execute an updated POA. A health care directive allows you to choose someone you trust to make your health care decisions when you're unable so an updated health care directive is useful for medical professionals in the case of an emergency. Use this time to discuss end-of-life care, organ donation and burial arrangements with your new spouse.

Finally, be sure to designate beneficiaries on assets like life insurance and retirement accounts. Most people forget to change the beneficiary after a divorce. Use this time to make changes on old accounts, small life insurance policies and old 401k's so that your new spouse is informed of all accounts.

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### **Can you use Conscious Uncoupling in Michigan?**

You may be considering following the newest trend before going through with your divorce which is known as conscious uncoupling. This term refers to married couples that want to split up but do so in a way that involves much reflection on their behavior that led to the marriage coming to an end. It's a way to split up amicably and move forward in a healthy way.

If you live in Michigan and are considering following this new trend brought to the forefront by celebrity couple Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin, you're in luck because Michigan considers all divorces no fault divorces. Here is a further look at this trend.

### **What is conscious uncoupling?**

The term is actually not a new concept but it's become a trend more recently. This idea that has been around for a while allows couples to reflect on the part they played in the marriage's demise rather than blaming everything on their partner.

The idea is to split up more amicably and it's a refreshing trend. Most divorces these days are ending in negativity, placing the blame and revenge but this is a way to grow from the marriage and divorce in order to move forward in a healthy way.

### **Doesn't that already happen without giving it a name?**

Many couples already reflect on their behavior that led to the divorce unconsciously without giving it a title. Other marriages going through divorce are just trying to survive the emotional strain of what's taking place which leaves no room for self-reflection.

This type of conscious uncoupling allows couples to take the time to truly self-reflect. When going through your Michigan divorce, you may want to consider emulating this concept in order to survive this vulnerable time of your life. Michigan treats all divorces as no fault divorces.

### **Benefits**

In addition to the obvious benefits of moving forward with your lives individually in a healthy manner, the kids will reap benefits too. Parenting and child custody management will come much easier if you decide to go the route of conscious uncoupling. The stress on the changing family dynamic will ease and children will see that their parents are trying their best to get along and make it a less stressful time for everyone.

If you decide to try conscious uncoupling, it's still ok to feel angry at times and not feel amicable. Give it time and consider the end results of trying this with your divorce.