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## **Small Personal Injury Law Firm Serves Children Well**

### *Younger Victims Face a Lifetime of Challenges*

**Independence, Mo.** – It was the middle of the day on a popular thoroughfare. A young teenage driver traveling too fast crashed into the passenger side of a family’s sport utility vehicle and changed the victims’ lives forever. A small child was hurt the worst – a head injury that would result in life-long health-care needs and developmental limitations.

The above scenario is only one of thousands of ways that children become the victims of personal injury every day. According to the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, 6.9 million children under the age of 14 sought emergency room treatment in 1999 for unintentional injuries – the leading cause of emergency room visits. Of those children unintentionally injured, 5,834 died. The leading cause of death for children ages 1 to 14 are motor vehicle crashes, accounting for 42 percent of deaths in this age group. Children also die from accidental drowning, burns, poisoning, falls and other means. The annual cost of child injury deaths in the United States is an estimated \$3.3 billion.

Fortunately, many survive unintentional injury. Severely injured children, however, typically require long-term medical attention and face a lifetime of unique challenges. They often are permanently scarred and many times grow up with physical and emotional disabilities, unable to support themselves.

That’s where a dedicated personal injury attorney becomes invaluable. Douglas R. Horn, father of three and lead attorney of the Independence, Mo.-based Horn Law Firm, is especially committed to protecting the rights of children who have been negligently harmed.

“Sometimes when children are injured in an accident, their cognitive development never recovers. So with kids, you’ve got to look at the life-care medical issues related to their physical injuries, as well as the associated emotional and financial ramifications,” Horn said. “While we can’t help with all of the medical aspects, our firm is dedicated to making sure our clients recover financially from their accidents.”

Horn and his associates focus on personal injury cases and have seen the severity of cases involving children increase dramatically over the past decade. The firm handles more cases now in which a child has been severely injured, perhaps in an automobile collision or a biking accident, than when Horn Law opened more than 12 years ago.

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“I wish children were never victims,” Horn said. “But it’s especially gratifying to me as a father and a children’s advocate to help families get through a tragic time in their lives and eliminate related financial worries when a child is involved in an accident.”

Personal injury attorneys should be determined to find every possible angle of recovery so that children won’t have to suffer financial hardship in addition to their physical and emotional injuries. Horn offers these tips to parents of unintentionally injured children looking for a qualified personal injury attorney:

1. Make sure the attorney chosen has handled similar cases before.
2. Determine that the attorney understands the importance of expert testimony to support victims’ claims and recover meaningful compensation.
3. A good attorney is open to involving as many other experts – legal, medical and other pertinent authorities – necessary to get a good result. Clients should question attorneys who say they can handle a serious personal injury case without the collaboration of other experts.
4. It’s also wise to confirm an attorney has sufficient financial resources to invest in a case. Legal investigations and expert testimony – both of which are crucial to a successful outcome – cost a significant amount of money.

Horn Law has been helping personal injury victims recover full and fair compensation for their injuries since 1990. The firm is based in Independence, Mo., with consultation offices in Liberty, Mo., Richmond, Mo., St. Louis and Overland Park, Kan. Because of the firm’s size, Horn Law attorneys can devote unprecedented personal attention and resources to each client. Clients also benefit from Horn Law professionals’ combined 20 years of experience. Douglas R. Horn, the firm’s founder and lead attorney, is a member of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, the Missouri Association of Trial Attorneys and the American Trial Lawyers Association. He and his wife reside in Lee’s Summit with their three children.

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