



Celebrating 40 Years of Excellent Legal Services

BBGA proudly announces its 40-year anniversary of providing exceptional legal services to its clients. Since its inception in 1984, the firm has been a steadfast fixture in the Georgia legal landscape, offering a wide range of practice areas including personal injury, real estate, business law, and tax & estate law. BBGA has offices in Athens and Lake Oconee.

Over the years, BBGA has become synonymous with quality, integrity, and commitment to its clients. The firm's skilled team of attorneys consistently demonstrates an unwavering dedication to helping clients navigate complex legal challenges while also giving back to the community through various initiatives.

As part of their commitment to community engagement, BBGA attorneys are actively involved in pro bono and volunteer work, sponsoring local businesses

and organizations, giving to multiple charities, and serving on local boards. The firm believes in making a positive impact beyond the courtroom by contributing to the well-being and growth of the local region.

One notable achievement is the recovery of **over \$1 billion** for deserving clients in the last 10 years. This milestone reflects the firm's relentless pursuit of justice for those who have been injured because of someone else's negligence.

"We are incredibly proud to celebrate 40 years of providing exceptional legal services to Georgia communities," said BBGA Shareholder Thomas Hollingsworth. "Our success is not only measured by our legal victories but also by the relationships we have built and the positive impact we have had on the cities we call home."

Celebration Continued on Page 2

\$250,000 Settlement for Neck Injury from Rear-End Crash

BBGA secured a \$250,000 settlement for a client who suffered neck injuries and required surgery because of a rear-end crash.

The settlement was for the at-fault driver's insurance policy limits and was three times the amount of our client's medical bills.

The Crash

Ms. H was traveling west on Oglethorpe Avenue at the intersection of Holman Avenue in Athens, Georgia. She was stopped behind another vehicle that was turning left when she was struck from behind. The force of the crash pushed Ms. H's vehicle into the car in front of her. The driver of

the vehicle that struck Ms. H was found at fault.

The Injuries

Ms. H sought help from an orthopedic surgeon about a week after the wreck for neck pain. Imaging showed no fractures, so she was given instructions on home exercises.

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Multiple BBGA Attorneys Selected to 2024 Super Lawyers List

Join us in congratulating several BBGA attorneys selected to the 2024 Georgia Super Lawyers List. Super Lawyers recognizes the top attorneys nationwide, across a variety of practice areas and firm sizes, using a patented process of independent research and peer input.

The lawyers selected include the top 5 percent of attorneys in each state, those with many years of experience, as well as the Rising Stars of the profession.

BBGA Attorneys Selected to the 2024 list Include:

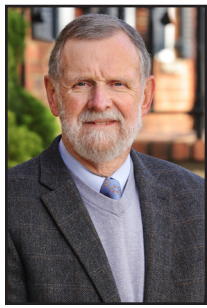
- Henry Garrard
- Drew Hill
- Rob Huestis
- Evan Jones
- Jim Matthews

An additional achievement, attorney Evan Jones has been selected for 20 years. Attorneys Henry Garrard, Drew Hill, and Jim Matthews have been selected for 21 years.

Super Lawyers, part of Thomson

Reuters, rates outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas with high peer recognition and professional achievement.

The annual selections are made using a multiphase process that includes a statewide survey of lawyers, peer recognition, professional achievement, and an independent research evaluation of candidates. For more information about Super Lawyers, visit SuperLawyers.com.



From Left; Henry Garrard, Drew Hill, Rob Huestis, Evan Jones, and Jim Matthews.

Crash Continued

Ms. H returned to the orthopedic clinic a month later with continued and worsening neck pain.

She had cervical fusion done several years prior to the crash.

An MRI of her spine revealed disc bulges in her neck and spinal cord compression, which was causing ongoing neck pain, numbness, and tingling in her shoulders.

Ms. H eventually underwent a C4-C5 anterior cervical discectomy, which is a type of neck surgery that involves removing a damaged disc to relieve spinal cord pressure and alleviate pain.

She has fortunately made a good recovery and is back to living an active and healthy life.

Securing a Fair Settlement

Because Mrs. H had a previous neck surgery, we obtained all her medical records from that surgery and leading up to the wreck. The records showed that she had made a good recovery from the neck surgery and was pain and symptom-free for years. In fact, Mrs. H had gone to the doctor several times in the months before the wreck for routine checkups and the records noted that she was healthy and pain-free. We then sent a settlement demand to the other driver's insurance company for their policy limits, which they agreed to pay.

We are so glad we could help Ms. H with her case, and we wish her the best in her ongoing recovery.

Celebration Continued

BBGA distinguishes itself by combining the latest technology with unparalleled skill and expertise to deliver the best possible legal services to each client.

The firm remains committed to staying at the forefront of legal innovation to meet the evolving needs of its clients. As BBGA looks back on four decades of excellence, it remains dedicated to upholding its core values and continuing to serve its clients with integrity, compassion, and a forward-looking approach.

THANK YOU, ATHENS!

For Selecting Us As Your Favorite Law Practice!

Thanks to all who voted for us in Flagpole's 14th Annual Athens Favorite Poll! We are honored to be selected as your Favorite Law Practice in Athens!



Understanding the Risks of Nursing Home Elopement

When you place your loved one in a nursing home, you expect nurses and other staff at the facility to take every precaution to keep them safe. Unfortunately, many Georgia nursing homes lack quality care because they are understaffed, and workers are overwhelmed. Elopement is just one example of what can happen when a nursing home or other long-term care facility lacks sufficient staff to care for all the residents.

What is Nursing Home Elopement?

Elopement, in the context of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, refers to when a resident leaves the facility without permission or supervision. Wandering, on the other hand, is when a resident walks excessively or wanders away from their room or a specific floor. If a resident is unsupervised, wandering may lead to elopement. This article aims to shed light on the dangers of nursing home elopement, its underlying causes, and strategies to prevent it.

Why is Nursing Home Elopement Dangerous?

Nursing home elopement poses significant risks to the safety and well-being of elderly residents. Some of the dangers associated with elopement include:

Exposure to Hazards: When residents wander outside the facility unattended, they may encounter various hazards such as traffic, extreme weather conditions, or unfamiliar environments, putting them at risk of accidents or injuries.

Health Risks: Elderly individuals with cognitive impairments or medical conditions may become disoriented or confused when they leave the nursing home premises, leading to potential health complications or exacerbation of existing conditions.

Vulnerability to Abuse or Exploitation: Individuals who wander off from long-term care facilities may become targets for exploitation, abuse, or scams, especially if they are unable to advocate for themselves or make informed decisions.

Emotional Distress: Elopement can cause distress not only to the residents who wander but also to their families and caregivers. The uncertainty and fear surrounding the whereabouts and safety of a missing loved one can have a profound emotional impact on everyone involved.

Causes of Nursing Home Elopement

Several factors may contribute to nursing home elopement, including cognitive impairments, inadequate supervision, environmental factors, or a lack of individualized care.

Cognitive Impairments: Residents with dementia or Alzheimer's disease may experience confusion or disorientation, leading them to wander or even leave a facility in search of familiar surroundings or loved ones. Taking certain medications or being over-medicated can also affect a resident's cognitive abilities.

Inadequate Supervision: Understaffing or insufficient



monitoring of residents can create opportunities for elopement.

Environmental Factors: Poorly designed or maintained facilities, inadequate security measures, or easily accessible exits can facilitate elopement incidents.

Lack of Individualized Care: Failure to address the unique needs of residents, such as providing engaging activities or social interactions, may contribute to feelings of restlessness or boredom, prompting residents to wander or leave the facility without supervision.

How to Prevent Nursing Home Elopement

What Should Nursing Homes Be Doing?

Preventing elopement requires a multifaceted approach that addresses the underlying causes and enhances safety measures within nursing home facilities.

Some strategies that nursing homes and other long-term care facilities should have in place include conducting thorough assessments of each resident's cognitive abilities, mobility, and risk factors of elopement and developing a personalized

plan of care tailored to each resident's needs; adequate staffing levels and enhanced supervision; a strategic plan on how to address wandering and elopement when it does occur; implementing safety measures such as door alarms, secure windows, and video cameras; ongoing training for nursing home staff so they recognize signs of elopement risk and can communicate effectively with residents; and offering engaging activities and other social interactions such as recreational programs to help reduce boredom and improve residents' quality of life.

Nursing Home Rules and Regulations

By addressing the underlying causes, enhancing supervision, and implementing safety measures, nursing homes can create a safer environment for residents and mitigate the risks associated with elopement.

Nursing home staff, caregivers, and other healthcare professionals must work together to safeguard vulnerable individuals entrusted to their care.



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DEFECTIVE & DANGEROUS PRODUCTS
 MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
 CAR ACCIDENTS
 TRUCK ACCIDENTS
 WRONGFUL DEATH
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