

A photograph of two young boys walking across a crosswalk on a paved road. They are wearing backpacks and are in motion, with their shadows cast long on the pavement. The scene is set during the 'golden hour' of late afternoon, with warm sunlight filtering through trees in the background. The boy in the foreground is wearing a blue jacket and blue pants, while the boy behind him is wearing a green jacket. The crosswalk consists of white stripes on the asphalt road.

BACK TO SCHOOL

LEGAL SAFETY GUIDE

Essential Legal Tips for Georgia Parents

BLASINGAME, BURCH, GARRARD & ASHLEY, P.C.

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Back to School Legal Safety Guide

What Georgia Parents Should Know

Presented by Blasingame, Burch, Garrard & Ashley, P.C.

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bbga.com

Introduction

Every fall, Georgia families gear up for another school year — new supplies, packed lunches, and fresh routines. But amid the excitement, safety should never take a back seat. Children face real risks on the way to and from school, in the classroom, and even online.

At BBGA, we're parents and legal advocates. We created this guide to help families understand where legal responsibility may lie when things go wrong, and what steps to take if your child is seriously injured or harmed.



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Pedestrian Safety:

Teach It Before the First Bell Rings

Children are most vulnerable when walking to school or waiting near traffic.

Teach them to:

- Use marked crosswalks and wait for the "walk" signal.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing.
- Never assume a driver will stop, even if they should.

Even when drivers are at fault, pedestrians may need legal help to prove negligence. Children hit by vehicles often suffer severe injuries and may require long-term medical care.



School Bus Safety:

What Every Parent Should Tell Their Child

Kids should never assume the bus stop is safe. Go over these key safety tips:

- Cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus, never behind it.
- Always stop and look both ways before stepping into the street.
- Wait until the bus stops completely and the driver signals it's safe before crossing the road.

Many injuries occur because drivers illegally pass stopped school buses, a serious traffic violation. If your child is hit in this scenario, the driver can be held liable, and in some cases, the school district may share responsibility.



What to Do If Your Child Is Hit by a Car

It's every parent's nightmare - a driver strikes your child on their way to school or getting on or off the bus.

If this happens:

- Seek immediate medical care, even if injuries seem minor.
- Take photos or video of the scene, including skid marks, signage, or damaged items.
- Collect contact info from any witnesses.
- Save clothing, backpacks, or other items as evidence.

Legal claims involving minors must be handled carefully. A skilled attorney can help recover damages for medical costs, pain and suffering, future care, and more.



Injuries at School: Who's Liable?

Georgia schools are responsible for maintaining safe premises and providing adequate supervision. That includes:

- Preventing access to unsafe areas (e.g., wet floors, broken railings).
- Supervising students during class changes, recess, and lunch.
- Following emergency protocols for accidents.

Injuries due to school negligence may allow families to file a claim, but cases involving public schools can be complicated due to sovereign immunity laws. An attorney can help determine whether you have a valid case, and if special notice requirements apply.



Playground & Sports Injuries:

When Does it Warrant a Personal Injury Claim?

Bumps and bruises happen, but if serious harm or death results from:

- Poorly maintained equipment
- Lack of supervision
- Dangerous field conditions
- Negligent coaching or drills

... then a personal injury claim may be appropriate. Some injuries can lead to lifelong consequences, especially head injuries, spinal injuries, and fractures.



**STOP
BULLYING!**

Hazing & Severe Bullying:

What If the School Knew?

When bullying or hazing crosses into physical violence or causes long-term injuries or death, legal action may be possible — especially when:

- The school had prior notice and failed to act.
- Anti-bullying policies were ignored.
- Teachers or staff witnessed the behavior and allowed it to continue.

Georgia has anti-bullying laws, but enforcement varies widely. If your child was seriously harmed or killed because of bullying, your family may have grounds to pursue a case.



Suicide or Mental Health Crises:

Can a School Be Held Responsible?

These are devastating cases, and among the most complex. In some situations, a school may be liable if it:

- Ignored reports of bullying or threats
- Failed to respond to warning signs
- Did not involve counselors or parents when appropriate

Families may have a claim under negligent supervision or failure to act. These cases require an experienced legal team and a deep understanding of the law.



Medical Emergencies at School:

Who's Responsible?

Georgia schools are expected to:

- Follow individual medical plans (504/IEP) for students with health conditions.
- Train staff on using EpiPens, inhalers, or CPR.
- Respond quickly and notify parents in an emergency.

Failing to respond properly during a medical crisis can have tragic consequences. If your child was seriously injured or killed because their emergency was mishandled, you may be able to pursue compensation.



♥ LIKE

Social Media Dares & Dangerous Trends:

When Is There Legal Accountability?

Today's schools aren't just physical spaces, they're digital ones too. If your child is seriously injured or killed because of:

- A TikTok or YouTube "challenge"
- Sextortion, cyberbullying, or harassment
- Dangerous group stunts or dares

... and the school or teachers knew about the behavior or failed to stop it, legal accountability may follow. These cases often require digital evidence, complex knowledge of the law, and strong legal support.

10:24

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CONTACT US

Fill out the form below with any case details you can include and we'll be in touch shortly for a case review.

LET'S TALK



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Final Thoughts: Legal Support for Georgia Families

If your child is seriously injured or harmed at school, on the way there, or because of unsafe conditions or negligence, you are not alone.

At BBGA, we help families navigate these difficult situations with compassion, clarity, and experience.

We'll evaluate your potential case for free and explain your legal options with no pressure.

Whether it's holding a negligent driver accountable or helping you advocate for your child's future, we're here to help.

Contact Us Today

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