

Tom: Well believe it or not we are heading into spring in just a matter of weeks and with are trips to the park and more playing on playgrounds with various styles of playgrounds designed for certain ages. You need to be on the alert for injuries, here now on how to limit playground injuries Gilman Gilmann a partner at Gilman and Bedigan trial lawyers. Thank you so much for coming in.

Charles Gilman: Thanks, Tom. Thanks for having me.

Tom: We are talking about a whole lot of playgrounds that are out there i mean there are all sorts of things and you gave a list of some of the injuries that really that you deal with that you hear from different parents and they go through all sorts of things from dogs being in parks to kids playing with other kids and actually hurting other kids. What do you tell parents?

Gilman: Well, obviously, the first thing is we tell them to be careful and we also tell them look with the Coronavirus out there when your kids are out there at the park now obviously wash your hands and wash their hands when you go home.

But there are all sorts of parks but what amazes me the most was the number of injuries that children under fourteen sustain. Something like two hundred thousand injuries in emergency departments around the country per year for children under fourteen.

Tom: And you are taking these numbers right from the CDC and where it is you know just regular trips of falls, scratches and scrapes all the way up to serious head injuries.

Gilman: Ten percent of that two hundred thousand were traumatic brain injuries. Which was startling to me when I was putting this piece together because who would have thought there was twenty thousand TBI's resulting from playground injuries.

Tom: And these playgrounds you expect okay they are going to make them as safe as possible and there are various toys out there that are instrumental on the way the building materials are used. So you even saying one aspect of it is looking at the playground as a parent looking that even the ground is safe.

Gilman: Correct. For example, if your child is going to be using the monkey bars, keep in mind that if they are shorter children, they are going to have a longer distance to fall. Make sure whatever they are falling on is going to pad their fall. Make sure that they are not going to bump their head if they fall off either end of the monkey bar on to something else, because obviously these TBI's are occurring a lot i mean that's 10% of the injuries.

Tom: What happens though if you go out to a playground or to a public space and your child is playing and all of a sudden an injury occurs, what do you do as a parent?

Gilman: As a parent you obviously get your child the medical treatment they need and take care of them. If it's a head injury or a broken bone, you take them to the emergency room and get them the treatment they need. From a legal standpoint, we have got to look at it as the playground. Was it negligently designed? Was there appropriate safety equipment used or not, the appropriate equipment or not, etc. We are going to analyze it legally differently than we would medically and the first thing is to get your child treated.

Tom: Say it was a dog bite that happened because a lot more people are bringing their dogs to the playground say there is interaction there do you take a picture of the dog or do you just first worry about the safety of the child and getting that fixed before?

Gilman: I think you always worry about the safety of the child first and you know pictures come second. Hopefully, you are busy taking care of your child because some dog injuries can be very gruesome. Hopefully, there is a witness there because it is a public place and someone will take a picture for you. Or if you are in a group someone will take that picture for you. But you should worry about getting the medical treatment because that's what comes first.

Tom: There you go, Charles Gilman, thank you so much Gilman and Bedigan we appreciate it.

Gilman: Thank you, Tom. Always nice to see you.