

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Attorney John A. Willis and his wife Lori are proud of their growing family. It is hard to believe that youngest son, Alexander John, is almost two years old already. Big brother Brannon Dean is growing and very busy with school and his sports activities.

The Law Offices of John A. Willis, P.A., handle a wide variety of personal injury matters, however, we put special emphasis on helping children who have been severely injured due to the negligence of others. We take it personally when a child is an innocent victim of negligence. Our staff recognizes the vulnerability of children and takes the extra time needed to give the highest level of care and protection to them.

This law firm has represented children involved in automobile accidents, drowning incidents, dog bite cases, and all types of personal injury litigation. For more information on our services and successes, or to refer a case or to arrange an appointment, please contact the Law Offices of John A. Willis, P.A. at (561) 417-7033.



Best regards,

John A. Willis

John A. Willis, Esq.

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Representing Injured Clients

Spring 2007

\$1,000,000.00 WRONGFUL DEATH SETTLEMENT: MOTHER OF 7 KILLED BY 18-WHEELER

A 60 year old Haitian mother of seven children and grandmother of thirteen sat on a bus stop bench when her life ended suddenly near eastbound U.S. 441 and West Atlantic Boulevard in Margate. A large tow-truck owned by J & J Towing came across three lanes of traffic, jumped onto the sidewalk, and barreled into her, killing her instantly, as horrified onlookers could do nothing to help. The victim's body was trapped under the twisted metal of an 18-wheeler, a power pole, and the bus stop.

The driver of the truck was a veteran driver with J & J Towing of Fort Lauderdale, however, he had no insurance. Fortunately, J & J Towing had a single limit million dollar policy. They initially refused to pay the full million because there were other claims for property damage and injury, including Wal-Mart's claim for lost income when the power pole that serviced their store was knocked down in the collision.



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Attorney John Willis was retained to represent the mother's family. Three of the children were living with their mother and attending college at the time of her death. They were being forced out of their home because the home their mother lived in had an age restriction on the deed (55 and over only). Through skillful negotiation by Mr. Willis consisting of the demand and citing of possible bad faith negotiations by the insurance company, they agreed to pay the full policy.

Mr. Willis and his staff are honored to have represented the family of this mother and grandmother and are proud that they ensured that her family can have the financial security to continue on in spite of this tragic situation.

REPRESENTING INJURED CLIENTS

Dear Clients and Friends:

The Law Offices of John A. Willis P.A. concentrates on the practice of civil jury trial litigation in Florida State and Federal Courts, with an emphasis on personal injury and insurance disputes.

We handle all types of personal injury litigation including:

- Automobile Accidents
- Wrongful Deaths
- Dog Bites
- Assault and Battery
- Nursing Home Negligence
- Slip and Fall
- Products Liability
- Medical Malpractice
- Food Poisoning
- Motorcycle Accidents



Our insurance litigation practice includes:

- Bad Faith Cases
- Disability
- Homeowners
- Health
- Insurance coverage Disputes
- PIP No-Fault
- Automobile
- Life Insurance

Contact us at (561) 417-7033 and ask to speak to Attorney John A. Willis. There is never any charge for a consultation.

\$190,000.00 SETTLEMENT IN MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT

A client of the Law Offices of John A. Willis, P.A. was riding his motorcycle to his child's birthday party at a west Boca Raton children's restaurant. When the father entered the shopping center his tire hit a concealed pot hole that was a foot deep and two feet wide. It had been filled with water from the sprinklers so that you could not see it. The client was thrown from his motorcycle and suffered a severe fracture to his leg requiring surgery and implantation hardware. Investigation by Mr. Willis discovered that the shopping center's maintenance company had known about the hole for months and failed to repair it or even put barricades around it. The case was settled for \$190,000.00 without the need for a lawsuit.

ABOUT JOHN A. WILLIS: A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

John A. Willis received his law degree from Nova Southeastern University Law Center in 1994, where he was a member of the Nova Law Review, Nova Law Moot Court Society, and winner of the 1993 Feinrider Moot Court Competition, surpassing 90 other competitors. He is admitted to practice law before the Florida and New York Courts as well as the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Willis is widely respected by his colleagues and peers and is frequently called upon to give expert testimony regarding the reasonableness of attorneys' fees. He is the Vice Chairman of the Florida Bar Association 15th Circuit Grievance Committee where he investigates allegations of unethical conduct by attorneys to determine if formal charges will be made. He is AV Rated by Martindale-Hubbell, showing that Mr. Willis is recognized as having obtained the high-

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INJURY & WRONGFUL DEATH CLAIMS INVOLVING CHILDREN

Statistics gathered each year about injuries to minor children would give any parent pause and Attorney John Willis, as a father of two, is no different. Children make up a small portion of our population, but are our future and deserve the highest level of care and protection. Injuries to children have profound effects on their physical, emotional, and intellectual development.

Children may be involved in premises related accidents, occurrences involving lack of proper supervision, accidents involving pedestrians/bicycles and motor vehicles, trip and fall and/or slip and fall accidents, products liability matters, medical malpractice, as well as many other matters, and may have the right to recover damages. However, minors under the age of 18 do not have the legal capacity to bring a lawsuit to court in their own name. It is the responsibility of the parents or legal guardian to protect the interests of their children.

Certain laws in the State of Florida apply to the settlement of a minor child's claim that differ from the settlement of an adult's claim. These laws serve as additional protection for minor children. For example:

- A parent or parents (natural guardians) may settle the claim of their minor children, without necessity of court approval or appointment of a guardian ad litem, when the **GROSS settlement does not exceed \$15,000.**
- In any case where a minor has a claim for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death in which the **GROSS settlement for the claim of the minor exceeds \$15,000** the court may, prior to the approval of the settlement of the minor's claim, appoint a guardian ad litem to represent the minor's interests.
- In any case in which the **GROSS settlement involving a minor equals or exceeds \$25,000**, the court shall, prior to the approval of the settlement of the minor's claim, appoint the guardian ad litem.
- The duty of the guardian ad litem is to protect the minor's interests.
- A legal guardianship shall be required when the amount of the **NET settlement to the minor exceeds \$15,000.**
- If a **lawsuit** is filed, any settlement reached on behalf of the minor shall be approved by the Court before the settlement is effective. This applies even if the **GROSS settlement value is equal to or less than \$15,000.**

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est levels of skill and integrity. John A. Willis was recently named to Lawdragon's list of the Top 3000 Plaintiff's Lawyers in the United States, after Lawdragon conducted an extensive survey of the nation's best lawyers to determine whom they would trust with their own legal matters. He has been featured in America's Registry of Outstanding Professionals; Who's Who in American Law; is a member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum; and was honored by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as "Boca's Best - 2001," to name a few.

Attorney John A. Willis always has an open door for his clients and combines the personalized service of a small firm with the strong presence of a larger firm. He prides himself on client service with personal attention. If you or a loved one has been injured, call the Law Offices of John A. Willis, P.A., at (561) 417-7033 for a free consultation and confidential evaluation of your claim.