



HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

JULY 2026

SUMMER SHOULD BE FUN! PREVENTABLE INJURIES? NOT FUN.*

Summer has a way of making everything feel a little more exciting.

Families are traveling. Kids are going to camps. People are spending more time outside, on the water, at events, at cookouts, and on the road.

There are fireworks, pool days, vacations, concerts, festivals, and long weekends that families look forward to year-round. And that is exactly how summer should feel.

It should be fun. It should be memorable. It should be a season when families can slow down, celebrate, and spend time together.

But the truth is, summer fun also comes with responsibility.

Because behind almost every fun summer activity, there are adults, businesses, organizations, drivers, property owners, caregivers, and event organizers who have a duty to think ahead and keep people safe.

That responsibility matters.

As Russell Button explains, "Some of the best memories families make happen during the summer. But those memories depend on the adults in charge doing what they are supposed to do before something goes wrong."

Fun should not mean careless. Safety doesn't ruin the fun. It protects it.

"Safety should never be treated like it gets in the way of fun," Ashley Knarr says.

"It is what allows families and children to actually enjoy these moments without being placed in preventable danger."

This is especially true when children are involved.

Kids do not have the same ability to recognize danger, speak up for themselves, or remove themselves from unsafe situations. They rely on adults to notice the risks before something goes wrong.



Before a business invites families onto its property, it should already know whether its equipment is maintained, whether hazards have been fixed, and whether employees know what to do when someone needs help.

Before an event draws a large crowd, the organizers should already have plans for security, crowd control, weather, medical response, and safe movement in and out of the space.

Before someone gets behind the wheel, they should already know that driving distracted, impaired, exhausted, or impatient is not worth the risk.

The safest outcomes don't happen by accident. They happen because someone took responsibility before there was an emergency.

"At BLF, we see what happens when safety is treated as an afterthought," Russell says.

"The hardest part is knowing that most injuries could have been prevented if the people responsible had simply planned ahead, paid attention, and followed basic safety rules."

At The Button Law Firm, we believe families should be able to enjoy summer without wondering whether the people responsible for safety are doing their jobs.

Summer fun is important. So is responsibility.

And when the people in charge take safety seriously, families can focus on what summer is supposed to be about: **making memories, spending time together, and enjoying the moments that matter most.**

As Ashley says, "Families should be able to enjoy summer without having to wonder whether the adults, businesses, and organizations around them are taking safety seriously. That should be the baseline."

- Russell Button and Ashley Knarr

*Summer House reference

THREE PEOPLE, FOUR YEARS, ONE BIG SHIFT

4 YEARS AGO, ELIZABETH, RENA, & JAMES JOINED BLF.

Every team has a tipping point that shapes its future for years to come.

Sometimes those moments happen because of one big decision. Sometimes they happen because of steady, long-term growth. And sometimes, they happen when the right people join the team at just the right time.

Four years ago, The Button Law Firm experienced one of those moments.

Within a short window, Elizabeth, Rena, and James all joined BLF.

Each of them stepped into a different role, brought a different strength, and added something important to the team. But together, their arrival marked a major shift in the firm's history.

At the time, BLF was continuing to grow, help more families, and building the kind of team needed to serve clients with the level of care, communication, and preparation they deserve.

Bringing in strong people mattered. Bringing in people who believed in the mission mattered even more.

Rena, James, and Elizabeth became part of that growth.



Rena has continued to grow as an attorney and advocate, bringing compassion, focus, and a deep sense of responsibility to the families BLF represents.

Her work reflects what it means to stand beside families during some of the hardest moments of their lives.

“Rena has a heart for this work,” Russell says. “She understands that these cases are not just files. They are families, children, and people whose lives have been changed. That perspective makes her a strong advocate.”

Ashley says Rena's growth over the last four years has been incredible to watch.

“Rena brings determination, passion, and leadership to this team. There is no mountain too big for Rena to conquer,” Ashley says.

“She takes her role in our clients' lives seriously, and she has continued to grow in her role as a leader and advocate for families.”



James has helped support the team through his dependability, problem-solving, and commitment to doing the work well. His role has been part of the foundation that allows the firm to keep moving forward and continue serving families across Texas.

“James is someone the team can count on,” Russell says. “He brings a calm presence to the office, and he is always willing to help solve problems and support the mission.”

Ashley says James has played an important role in the team's growth over the last four years. “James is dependable, thoughtful, and steady,” Ashley says.

“He helps create the kind of team environment where people can do good work, support each other, and stay focused on the families we serve.”



Over the last four years, Elizabeth's consistency, care, and ability to manage the many behind-the-scenes pieces have made her an integral leader of the team.

“Elizabeth brings a level of steadiness that every strong team needs,” Russell says. “She cares about doing things the right way, and that matters when families are depending on us during such difficult moments.”

Ashley says Elizabeth's impact can be felt in the way she supports both clients and the team.

“Elizabeth is thoughtful, dependable, and committed to helping things move forward,” Ashley says.

“She may not always be the loudest person in the room, but her work speaks loudly. She has been a big part of the structure and support that helps BLF serve families well.”

Individually, Elizabeth, Rena, and James each made BLF better. Together, their four-year anniversaries represent something even bigger.

They represent a season when BLF was becoming more than a growing law firm.

It was becoming a stronger team.

A team with more structure, more depth, and more people committed to protecting families and helping clients move forward.

We are grateful for each of them, proud to celebrate this milestone, and excited for everything ahead.

YOU ONLY GET ONE CHILDHOOD

HOW JENNIFER SWANSON'S PATH FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE COURTROOM HELPS CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

Before Jennifer Swanson became an attorney, she was a teacher.

While working through an alternative certification program after college, Jennifer spent time in a life skills classroom. There, she met students who changed the way she saw ability, learning, and the range of human experience.

"I was fascinated by the range of human experience and how much ability we all actually have," Jennifer says.

That perspective stayed with her throughout her teaching career. It also shaped the way she saw the education system itself.

As much as Jennifer loved teaching, she became deeply aware of the limits of what one teacher could do alone.

She could work hard to help a student make progress, but once that student moved to another classroom or campus, that progress could stall. Too often, a child's success depended on which staff members they were assigned to and whether those adults truly believed in them.



Now, as an attorney at Swanson Law, Jennifer helps families better understand their rights and what is possible within the public school system. Much of her legal work is rooted in education, helping parents understand the process, the law, and the power of a strong Individualized Education Program, or IEP.

"There is power in knowledge, and there is power in a good IEP," Jennifer says.

Jennifer's perspective has continued to grow through each role she has held: teacher, attorney, and parent. Becoming a parent, especially as the parent of a child with special needs, brought her work full circle.

That lived experience gives Jennifer a deep understanding of what families are carrying when they come to her for help. She knows the fear, the questions, the hope, and the pressure parents feel when they are trying to get their child the support they need.

On Jennifer's website, one phrase stands out:

"Your child only gets one childhood."

To Jennifer, that isn't a tagline.

"Kids do not have time to waste," Jennifer says. "We have to get them back on track because those years are foundational. 'Wait and see' is not the approach when kids are struggling."

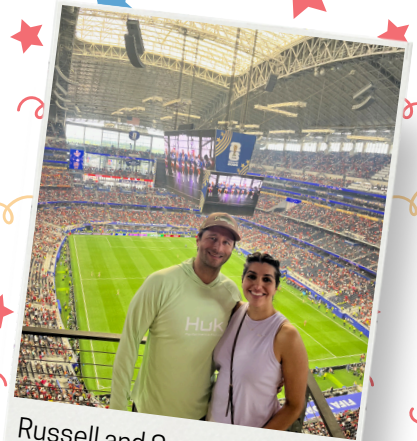
That urgency is part of what keeps her connected to the work, even when it becomes emotionally heavy.

"It does get heavy," Jennifer says, "but I remember the times that other people helped me carry heavy burdens. I want to be that for them."

Jennifer helps families understand those rights so they can participate more confidently in decisions about their child's education.

Her work is rooted in a simple but powerful belief. Children deserve to be seen for their abilities. Parents deserve to understand their rights. And every child only gets one childhood.

BLF BEHIND THE SCENES



Russell and Sammy at a Texas Rangers game



Elizabeth and Kelly at a neighborhood 4th of July party



Kaitlyn at the Spain vs Portugal World Cup game

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IT'S A PAW-TY IN
THE U.S.A.

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THE BABY COULDN'T SPEAK, BUT THE VIDEO DID **A HIDDEN INJURY. A FAMILY'S FIGHT.**

A 10-month-old baby should never be placed in harm's way by the very people trusted to care for her.

But that is exactly what happened when an infant at a Texas daycare suffered a catastrophic injury after a caregiver aggressively handled her. Video footage showed the child being forcefully pushed down, causing a serious injury to her shoulder.

Even after she was hurt, the infant was left to move around the room on her injured arm while the adults responsible for her care failed to respond with the urgency, concern, and compassion she deserved.

When her parents picked her up, they immediately knew something was wrong. Their baby was not using her arm, and they took her to the emergency room, where they learned the injury was severe.

What followed made the situation even more painful. Instead of taking responsibility, the daycare gave false explanations and tried to minimize what happened.

The family was not immediately given the full truth, and the people responsible did not act with the remorse or accountability parents should expect when their child is seriously harmed. The family turned to The Button Law Firm for help.

From the beginning, our team knew this was one of the most devastating daycare injury cases involving an infant. The injury itself was heartbreaking, but so was the fact that the daycare and insurance company spent roughly a year and a half avoiding responsibility.

Our team kept pushing. We investigated what happened and fought to hold the daycare accountable.

Throughout the process, the family remained patient and committed to seeking justice for their child.

In the end, The Button Law Firm secured a life-changing result for the family.

While nothing can undo what happened, this outcome gave the family the resources they needed for the future and sent a clear message: when a daycare harms a child, hides the truth, or refuses to take responsibility, families deserve answers, accountability, and justice.

