

## THE BUTTON LAW FIRM

## HOT-BUTTON ISSUES

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## HAPPY BELATED FOURTH OF JULY!

## Here's How Our Team Celebrated!

For as long as I can remember, my dad and I have gone fishing every Fourth of July. We don't fish because it's patriotic, but because my birthday is on July 2, and getting out on the water is one of my favorite things. Dad is more interested in the snack pack and the camaraderie than the art of casting a line, but he goes along for my benefit. I could fish all day without a bite and still be happy.

This year, Sammy and I camped in a secluded cabin in East Texas. We were able to hike, fish, and relax. The best part was we got to take Chuie, as the place was dog-friendly! My dad and I are heading out fishing in July as well — stay tuned for the results.

Here at BLF, my family isn't the only one with special traditions for the Fourth. I asked our team about their rituals, and Cristina shared a fun one! Her family plays a Fourth of July game while watching fireworks.

"We each pick a color for the night, and the person with the most fireworks of their chosen color wins," Cristina says. "You

don't actually win anything; it's just an ego boost. We've been doing it since I was a kid, and I have no idea how it started, but I'm happy to keep the tradition going!"



James also has an unusual Fourth of July habit. When he was a kid, he enjoyed family trips to Chicago on the Fourth, but now he, his friends, and his girlfriend, Chelsey, have a new tradition. "We enjoy making the drive up to Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri," he says. "Fun fact: The lake's shoreline is longer than the coast of California."

The rest of the BLF team is more conventional — they love the all-American pastimes of barbecue, hanging out poolside, spending time with loved ones, and lighting off fireworks.

"Some of my family members are barbecue enthusiasts, so they get to show off their grilling skills on the Fourth," Jacqueline says. "Though the food is great, I've always enjoyed these

barbecues because it's a great time to catch up with friends and family!"

Elizabeth's family isn't picky about their plans as long as they include swimming. "Every Fourth of July, we spend time on the water, whether it's a boat day on the lake, float day on the river, or day in the pool," she says.

You'll find Eurika "grillin' and chillin'" with family and friends" every year, and Rena likes to dig into her favorite Fourth of July treats: homemade ice cream and peach cobbler. For Ashley, "great food" is a holiday requirement, and like Rena, Sarah has a go-to dessert. "We always end the night with sparklers and s'mores!" she says.

Meanwhile, Rosie and Donal are big fans of the pyrotechnics. "Toward the end of the night, we sit out in our backyard and watch the fireworks since we can see them from there," Rosie says.

Donal notes, "As a kid, I was always fascinated by the colors and patterns across the night sky, and that still holds true. This year for the Fourth of July, my wife, kids, and I got a bag of fireworks to pop and watched the night sky light up."

However you spent the Fourth, I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

—Russell Button

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*"I could fish all day  
without a bite and still  
be happy."*

# JAMES IS BLF'S 'SWISS ARMY KNIFE'

HE'S ALWAYS WORKING HARD FOR OUR CLIENTS



If every person on the BLF team were a tool in a tool belt, then our operations assistant, James, would be our Swiss army knife. He's our go-to guy for every small task around the office — and no matter what we need, he makes it happen!

"My slogan is, 'Keep everything moving forward in the best way it can,'" James says.

When we asked James what pushes him to develop these new skills and find efficiencies, he said that he's in constant competition with himself. Every day, he aims to do a bit more for our firm and our community. His favorite part of his work is spreading joy inside and outside our office.

"I'm thankful for the opportunity; it has definitely been a rewarding experience to work with my peers and be proud of what I'm doing. ... Whether I'm talking to the team here, our clients, or somebody else, I'm always putting forth a little bit of happiness. I want to help them get away from that moment that affected their life and put them in a better spot," he says.

We celebrated James' one-year anniversary with the firm this summer, and honestly, it's hard to imagine our office without him. He keeps everything clean and organized, opens and closes the office each day, stays in constant contact with our vendors, and runs errands all over the city. If we need to deliver a settlement check or make a run to the airport, James is our man.

A few months into his job, James also took the vital step of becoming a notary. That means he can sign and pick up releases, affidavits, and other legal documents — saving time for our clients and the other notary on our team.



At home, James has his own ball of happiness to cheer him up: his Old English sheepadoodle pup, Maddox! Maddox just turned 1, and like any baby, he demands all of his dad's free time for walks, snuggles, and play. For James, it's always "time well spent."

## MCKAYLA DISAPPEARED FROM DAYCARE!

### Here's How We Helped Her Family

In the fall of 2021, Rebecca\* opened her front door to a shocking sight: Her 3-year-old daughter, McKayla, was standing on the stoop surrounded by strangers. McKayla was supposed to be safe in daycare — so how did she end up at the front door?

The story is straight out of a parent's worst nightmare. As Rebecca learned later, her daughter had simply walked out the daycare's front door. The facility was understaffed, and the remaining workers couldn't access critical emergency contact information, so they didn't notify Rebecca or the police that McKayla was missing.

Meanwhile, McKayla wandered through town alone, scared, and confused. Eventually, she ran *into the middle of a busy road* looking for help! McKayla could have been seriously injured, kidnapped, or even killed. Fortunately, a group of kind strangers stopped to help her find her way home.

The incident had a happy ending, but it still took a toll on McKayla's mental health and her family's daily routine. Doctors diagnosed McKayla with an adjustment disorder, and Rebecca — a single mom — had to leave the workforce to care for her.

After McKayla arrived home, Rebecca called the police to get to the bottom of her disappearance. She also reached out to our team for help and to hold the daycare accountable. When we investigated, we found that the facility had a long history of failing to properly supervise the children in its care, employing unqualified and untrained caregivers, and failing to meet the correct caregiver-to-child ratio and license capacity.

We presented our evidence and ultimately secured justice for McKayla! The result was an enormous relief for Rebecca and her family. Everyone in their situation deserves



that relief. To make it happen, our team will continue helping as many children and parents as we can!

*\*All names in this article have been changed to protect our clients' privacy.*

# HOT DAYCARE VANS CAN BE DEADLY

## Follow These Steps to Protect Your Child!

Did you know more children die in hot cars and vans in Texas than in any other state? From 1990–2021, nearly 150 Texas kids were killed in hot vehicles, and some lost their lives in daycare vans.

How does this happen? Well, when a daycare van is parked in the sun, the temperature inside rises by 20 degrees every 10 minutes. That means on a 95-degree day, a van can reach 135 degrees in just 20 minutes! As a parent, it might seem impossible to prevent your child from getting heat stroke at daycare. But there are a few things you can do to ensure they aren't forgotten in a van.

### ASK YOUR DAYCARE THESE QUESTIONS:

- **What systems do you use to prevent children from getting heatstroke in your facility's vans?** It's not enough

for a daycare to count heads when children enter and leave a vehicle. They should use a documented roster check with roll call, require two different staff members to check the van after the kids get off, and lock the van when it's not in use.

- **If your team finds a child in a hot van, at what point will they call 911?**

A competent daycare should immediately call emergency services or drive the child to the hospital. Notifying the child's parent(s) should come directly after.

- **Has your staff received training on how to treat heatstroke in children?**

Qualified caregivers should have this

training, just like they should have their CPR certificates.

### LEARN TO SPOT THE DANGER SIGNS.

If your child comes home feeling nauseous, sluggish, disoriented, or thirsty, a daycare provider may have left them in the heat for too long. Other signs include a racing heart rate, a high temperature, and body cramps.

### TAKE ACTION.

Scan the QR code on this page to download our **free** guide, "5 Steps to Take After a Daycare Injury." Read through it now so you'll be prepared to help your child if they're ever hurt or neglected at

daycare. The guide offers easy-to-follow steps any parent can take!



## BLF HIGHLIGHT REEL



## CLIENT REVIEW

*"I have the pleasure of knowing many members of the amazing team of people at The Button Law Firm. They are a passionate group of people who really care about their clients and making society a better place for everyone. They will fight for you like they were fighting for a member of their own family! It is not just a job but a calling to seek justice and fairness for their clients, especially for Ashley, Russell, Elizabeth, and Cristina. If you are looking for a law firm that will do everything they can to help you in a professional, compassionate, and dedicated manner, you have one with the team at the Button Law Firm."*

*- Anya Pence*



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## CRISTINA JUST CELEBRATED HER 3RD 'WORKIVERSARY'!

### Discover Two New Ways She's Working for You

We have to give a round of applause to our BLF paralegal, Cristina. Not only is she celebrating three years with our firm this summer, but she also took on an advanced role with us! Before, Cristina did basic paralegal work — working on pre-litigation, drafting demands, and helping cases settle out of court. Now, she has stepped up to become a case manager and litigation paralegal.

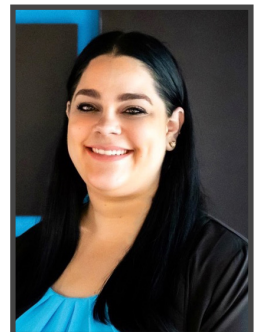
"I manage cases with a couple of other team members. It was a big role to take on, but it's been a great experience so far," Cristina explains.

If you have an active daycare or personal injury case with us, odds are good that Cristina is one of the people in your corner, working to ensure you and your family get justice. Since she stepped into this role, every day at the office has been a little more exciting than before.

"There are some moments when I'm able to sit down and spend a few hours going over records like I used to, then all of a sudden I'll get six emails, and the pace will pick up for the day," she says.

That workload can be a little stressful, so Cristina spends her nights and weekends relaxing with her family and playing "camp counselor" for her third-grade daughter.

"She's not doing summer camp this year, so I have to fill in the gaps and be the mom that comes up with all of the activities!" she says. "When I'm off of work, I try to fill our weekend with hiking and doing things outside."



We're looking forward to seeing Cristina in the office this summer, too. She works remotely from Houston, so it's exciting when she comes to Dallas to see our team (including her sister, Ashley). Luckily, the feeling is mutual.

"I love working for this firm, I love the team that we have, and I think we're doing really, really great things," Cristina says. "Watching BLF grow over the past three years has been awesome to witness firsthand and be a part of. I'm very proud of us."