



*Born, raised,  
and practicing law  
in Louisville, KY*

# SCHEYNOST Law Offices, P.S.C.

Brought to you by

**Scheynost  
Law Offices, P.S.C.**

7619 Dixie Highway  
Louisville, KY 40258

**502-937-5287**

E-mail:  
[sscheynost@scheynostlaw.com](mailto:sscheynost@scheynostlaw.com)  
Website:  
[www.scheynostlaw.com](http://www.scheynostlaw.com)



## Nonmotorized boating can be dangerous

No matter where you live or where you vacation, if there is water, chances are good that paddleboats can be rented. Oftentimes the only training given is a five-minute briefing on how to paddle and steer the craft. Canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, and rafts may not be motorized, but they can be dangerous.

In 2012, 18-year-old Christopher Gormley signed up for a kayaking trip that was advertised to be on calm, flat water. Despite cold water temperature, wet suits were not recommended. Gormley's kayak capsized in rough waters, and he died of hypothermia. In 2014, Tyler Madoff, 15, was washed out to sea while taking a guided kayak tour in Hawaii. In both cases, the kayakers were led into dangerous conditions that weren't supposed to be a part of the tours.

Paddlers, particularly those who are going out without a group or guide, should always wear a life jacket; know what to do in case of inclement weather, if they fall off the craft, or if the craft flips over; know how to navigate among other vessels; and know what to do in case of emergency. According to the American Canoe Association, 75 percent of those who died as a result of canoe and kayak accidents weren't wearing a life jacket.

If you or a loved one has been injured in a rented watercraft due to insufficient training, being sent into rough waters, inclement weather, or because the craft was not properly maintained, contact an attorney for a confidential case review.



### PERSONAL INJURY PRACTICE

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## Smart key...maybe not!



Keyless vehicles are convenient, but there is cause for concern: They've been associated with nine deaths since 2010. Drivers are accustomed to physical keys that must be placed into an ignition switch to start the car and removed to stop the car.

Smart keys use a code that is transmitted from a key fob. To start a car, the fob needs to be inside of the vehicle and the driver must press a button. The problem comes when the driver stops the vehicle. For the engine to turn off, a certain sequence of events must be followed. Typically, this entails putting the vehicle into park, pressing an ignition button, and opening and shutting the driver-side door. Simply removing the key fob does not turn the vehicle off, and many people have reported leaving the car running by accident. Nine fatalities have been associated with carbon-monoxide poisoning and keyless ignitions.

Another problem, though no deaths have been associated with it, is vehicle rollaway. Drivers have reported that they are able to shut off their vehicle without it automatically locking the engine into park. A review of late-model vehicle keyless entry systems has shown that of 34 vehicles tested, 73 percent didn't lock the car into park when the engine was off.



*I take your family's safety and security personally.*

## Having a pool party? Consider hiring a lifeguard

There's nothing like a pool party to celebrate the summer season. Whether for a birthday, holiday, or just because it's hot, taking steps to protect your guests is the duty of a good host. Pool parties with children can be particularly dangerous, as adults become preoccupied with socialization and assume that they will hear a cry for help or see a lot of splashing if a child gets into trouble. In fact, someone who is drowning often can't make noise; their mouth and nose are under water and a struggle is not always apparent at a distance, especially if it is happening among many splashing children.

For these reasons, hiring a lifeguard makes a lot of sense. Drowning is the second most common cause of accidental death in children ages 15 and under, and half of the children who drown are within 75 feet of their parents or another adult. While adults may not immediately recognize a drowning child, a trained lifeguard will.

## What does drowning look like?

Keep your eye out for these signs from Dr. Francesco A. Pia, a water-safety expert, that someone is drowning:

- Their eyes are either closed or appear glassy and unfocused.
- Their head is tilted back with the mouth open, or it is low in the water with the mouth at water level.
- Their hair covers their face.
- They are trying to swim in one direction but getting nowhere.
- Their body is vertical, and they are not using their legs.



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For your specific situation, please consult the appropriate legal professional.

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7619 Dixie Highway  
Louisville, KY 40258

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## PRODUCT RECALLS

With summertime upon us, please be sure to check if any of your seasonal items may have been recalled.

### Dehumidifiers

Between a 2013 and 2014 recall, more than 2.4 million dehumidifiers manufactured by Gree have been recalled because the units can overheat and catch fire. No deaths or serious injuries have been associated with either recall, but almost \$2.5 million in property damage has been reported. This recall involves select 20-, 25-, 30-, 40-, 45-, 50-, 65-, and 70-pint dehumidifiers with brand names Danby, De'Longhi, Fedders, Fellini, Frigidaire, GE, Gree, Kenmore, Norpole, Premiere,

Seabreeze, SoleusAir, and SuperClima. The dehumidifiers were sold between January 2005 and August 2013. Contact Gree toll-free at **(866) 853-2802** or online at [www.greeusa.com](http://www.greeusa.com); click "Recall."

### 4Seasons folding lounge chair

The chair can tip or recline too quickly, posing a fall hazard. The chairs were sold exclusively at Ross Stores nationwide between April and June 2013. Contact 4Seasons toll-free at **(888) 529-6524** or at [www.4seasonsglobal.com](http://www.4seasonsglobal.com); click on "Product Recall" for more information.

### Bob-Cat Zero Turn Riding Mower

The steering control arm component on this mower can break under normal use, causing the driver to lose control

and crash. The mowers were sold at Bob-Cat dealerships nationwide from January 2013 to April 2014. Contact Bob-Cat toll-free at **(866) 469-1242** or at [www.bobcatturf.com](http://www.bobcatturf.com)—click the "Customer Service" tab at the top of the page, then click "Product Recall Information."

### Graco strollers

The folding hinges on the sides of the stroller can pinch a child's finger, posing a laceration or amputation hazard. The units included in the recall are the Aspen, Breeze, Capri, Cirrus, Glider, Kite, LiteRider, Sierra, Solara, Sterling, and TravelMate Model Strollers and Travel Systems. Contact Graco Children's Products at **(800) 345-4109** or [www.gracobaby.com](http://www.gracobaby.com); click on "Help Center" at the top and "Recall and Safety Notifications."