

Child Injury Laws *Blog*

Authorities Look For Answers Following Boy's Death In Roller Coaster Accident

Posted by **Jonathan Rosenfeld** on April 03, 2011

Authorities from the Illinois Department of Labor are assembling at Go Bananas, an indoor amusement park in the Chicagoland area following the death of three-year-old identified as Jayson Dansby.

Like many kids out for an evening of fun with their family, Jayson and his family went to **Go Bananas**, an indoor amusement park and pizza restaurant in Norridge, IL, was just out for a good time. Sadly, an innocent roller coaster ride with his twin brother turned tragic when Jason fell out of the ride.

According to **reports** from the Chicago Tribune, "Boy 3, dies after fall from children's roller coaster," the boy was declared dead on the scene from apparent head injuries he sustained when he fell out of a roller coaster known as the Python Pitt.

Though the exact cause of this incident will likely remain under investigation for some time, the boys fall happened when he slipped underneath the restraining bar on the ride. Investigating police officer, James Jobe, of the Norridge Police Department noted that there were no height restrictions posts near the ride.

As a **personal injury lawyer**, who has prosecuted cases related to children who sustained injuries on various types of amusement park rides, operator error is a common cause of

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many **carnival ride accidents**. Even with the limited information we have about this incident, I am immediately suspicious of why a three-year-old was allowing to ride a roller coaster--- of any type without an accompanying adult?

The **Illinois Department of Labor** is the regulatory arm of the state responsible for carnival ride licensure and safety compliance. The department has a stringent amusement ride inspection program to ensure rides are inspected every year.

As I have learned in the course of litigating various **amusement park injury cases**, height and weight requirements are a crucial components to rider safety. Design engineers use specific calculations to determine both the amount of force exerted on riders during the various twists and turns of the ride-- to ensure that the weight of each passenger keeps them safely within their seats.

Certainly, this incident needs to be investigated both to provide crucial answers for this grieving family--- and to ensure the safety of children at similar indoor amusements during the popular summer carnival season.

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