



Politicians Decide One Home Safety Question by Doctors Is Off Limits

August 11, 2011 by **Patrick A. Malone**

Do you text while driving? Have a swimming pool at home without a cover? Have a gun in your house?

All sensible questions for pediatricians to ask parents and adolescent patients, looking for ways they can help improve home safety. But the last question, about guns, is now officially off limits for any Florida doctors to ask, thanks to a National Rifle Association campaign that succeeded in persuading the Florida Legislature that the question was too intrusive of privacy.

Having represented grieving parents whose **child was killed by an accidental gun discharge at a neighbor's home** whom they didn't know had a gun inside, I can relate to the desire of pediatricians to cut the toll of tragic gun deaths by asking parents this simple question. The question is intended to

Patrick A. Malone
Patrick Malone & Associates, P.C.
1331 H Street N.W.
Suite 902
Washington, DC 20005

pmalone@patrickmalonelaw.com
www.patrickmalonelaw.com
202-742-1500
202-742-1515 (fax)

trigger a safety talk about the importance of keeping the gun unloaded and ammunition locked up where kids cannot get to it.

Because when kids are fooling around with a loaded weapon and it goes off, no one can put the bullet back in the gun.

Read more on the [gun question from a pediatrician's perspective](#) in a recent New York Times essay.

Families interested in learning more about our firm's legal services, including legal representation for children who have suffered serious injuries in Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia due to medical malpractice, defective products, birth-related trauma or other injuries, may ask questions or send us information about a particular case by phone or email. There is no charge for contacting us regarding your inquiry. An attorney will respond within 24 hours.

All contents copyrighted 2010 [Patrick Malone & Associates](#) except where copyright held by others. Reproduction in any form prohibited except where expressly granted.

Patrick A. Malone
Patrick Malone & Associates, P.C.
1331 H Street N.W.
Suite 902
Washington, DC 20005

pmalone@patrickmalonelaw.com
www.patrickmalonelaw.com
202-742-1500
202-742-1515 (fax)