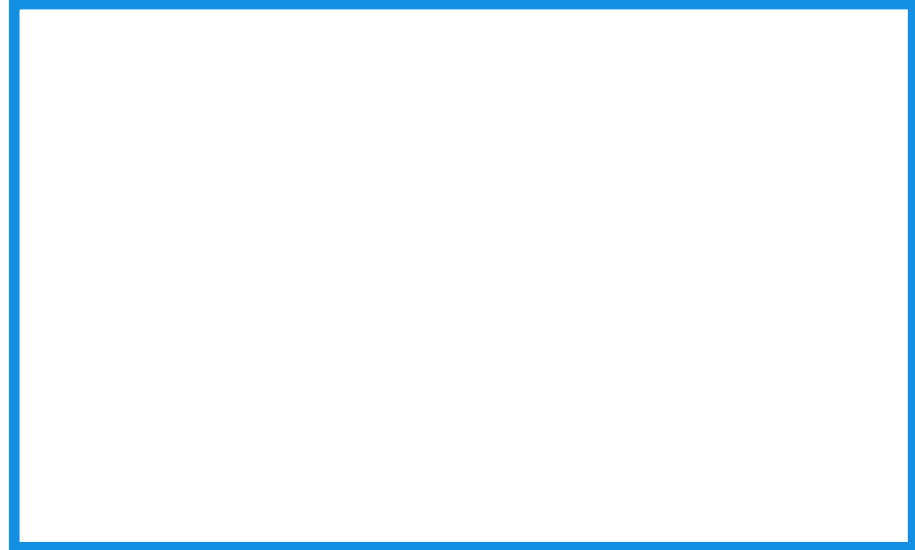


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**HOT-BUTTON ISSUES**

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**THE DAY A CHILD WAS FORGOTTEN**

*How Children Get Left Outside at Daycare and the Tragic Outcomes*

Neglect at daycare doesn't always stem from malice but often from a lack of proper training, distracted staff, or protocols that prioritize convenience over child safety. Children's safety in daycare requires constant focus. Transitions like drop-offs, pick-ups, and outdoor play are ripe with opportunities for a child to slip away unnoticed. Staff undertrained or stretched too thin might skip critical measures like headcounts, leaving room for human error. Meanwhile, unsecured environments — doors that lock behind children, unsafe playgrounds, or proximity to roads or water hazards — compound the risks. **It only takes one moment of inattention for a tragedy to unfold.**

I will never forget the day a heartbroken father came into our office to recount his 3-year-old daughter's ordeal. He dropped her off at daycare on a cold, rainy day, trusting she would be safe and cared for. Unbeknownst to him, a series of negligent decisions made by the daycare staff would lead to a nightmare. Distracted while handling other children, the caregiver failed to notice when the little girl wandered outside. The back door, carelessly left unmonitored, locked behind her.

For almost seven hours — yes, seven hours — this small child was left outside in freezing rain without a coat, protection, or comfort. By the time staff finally realized she was missing, she was found cold, wet, shaking, and soiled. Yet, what shocks me most to this day is that the daycare didn't immediately notify her parents, authorities, or medical

professionals. Instead, they chose to cover up their failure, waiting to relay the events until her father came to pick her up.

The dangers she faced were staggering. The daycare sat near a busy road, a debris-filled field, and storm drains. Any of these hazards could have turned this horrifying situation into an unspeakable tragedy. Upon hearing the devastating news, the child had to be rushed to the emergency room, where she was treated for hypothermia. Her parents, shattered by the ordeal, later brought her soiled and ruined outfit into my office — a haunting reminder of how close they came to losing their child.

This story isn't an isolated incident. We have seen too many cases where children have been harmed due to inadequate supervision or poorly enforced safety protocols. Daycares often fail to conduct something as simple yet essential as a headcount or to provide staff with proper training to handle emergencies. As a result, children are left powerless in the face of hazards like heatstroke, hypothermia, snake bites, and busy streets. It's alarming how often these oversights occur — and how preventable they are.

This case left a deep scar on the family, but it also ignited a fierce passion in our team to hold this negligent daycare provider accountable. No child should ever have to endure such a traumatic experience, and no parent should have to live with the guilt of unknowingly leaving their child in harm's way.

This case reminds us that the safety of children must never be taken lightly. It drives our commitment to fighting for justice for families who have experienced this betrayal of trust. If you're a parent who has faced a similar situation, know you are not alone and that this is not your fault. Together, we can demand accountability, ensure better safety measures, and protect the vulnerable children who deserve nothing less than our unwavering care and attention.



*-Russell Button*

**SARAH TORGA KEEPS RAISING THE BAR!**

*How Our Office Administrator Helps BLF Excel Every Day*

Celebrating two incredible years with Sarah Torga at The Button Law Firm is like throwing a party for the glue that keeps everything together. Sarah's journey with us has been nothing short of transformative — for her and the entire team. From creating processes and procedures that streamline every corner of the firm to training new team members and maintaining the Dallas office, we feel Sarah's contributions in every department.

When Sarah first joined us, her role was focused, but as she likes to say, "Creating processes and procedures is a never-ending job." And thank goodness for that! With each tweak and improvement, Sarah has made life smoother for our team and the clients. Whether helping new hires understand our core values or assisting Elizabeth with onboarding, Sarah ensures every transition feels seamless. And with

a growing team and a shared passion for helping clients, Sarah says it best: **"At this point, we are unstoppable."**

What stands out most about Sarah is her consistency. Over the past two years, she's learned that showing up daily with drive and passion creates a ripple effect across the firm. Even on tough days, her dedication to quality work sets the tone for everyone else. "Continuous hard work gets you far," Sarah says.

Sarah's life over the past year has been filled with personal milestones. In June 2024, Sarah married her partner of nine years and celebrated with a dream honeymoon cruise around Alaska. "The weather was amazing," Sarah laughs. "Locals thought 60 degrees was hot, but coming from Texas in June, it felt like paradise!" She's also rediscovered her love



for reading, diving into romance novels with her coworkers and turning their shared hobby into an accountability group.

As Sarah reflects on the past two years, her goals for the future are as inspiring as her work ethic. "I want to keep growing — personally and professionally," she says. "I want to experience more, travel more, and continue building on everything I've learned here."

Sarah's enthusiasm reminds us that growth isn't just about reaching the top but savoring every step along the way.

# A YEAR OF EXCELLENCE AND ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

HOW KAITLYN'S COMPASSION CHANGES LIVES — ONE CASE AT A TIME

When Kaitlyn Moreno joined The Button Law Firm a year ago, she brought remarkable talent and unwavering determination. Her growth into a confident, compassionate attorney has been inspiring, and her dedication to our clients has already made a lasting impact. Kaitlyn's first year with us has laid the foundation for an extraordinary future.

When Kaitlyn first stepped into her role, she carried the weight of self-doubt many professionals face. Imposter syndrome is no stranger to lawyers, even those as talented as Kaitlyn. However, with the unwavering mentorship of Russell and Ashley, she found a way to trust herself and her abilities. "Russell and Ashley have given me the confidence to believe in myself," she shares. "They've taught me to trust my instincts as a lawyer, and that's made all the difference."

Her growth over the past year has been nothing short of inspiring. Kaitlyn has stepped into her role with confidence and grace. But what truly sets Kaitlyn apart is her heart. She pours everything she has into her clients, and it shows in the bonds she builds. One moment that stands out is when an 8-year-old client, who had endured unthinkable trauma, gave her an unprompted hug. For a child who had lost trust in adults, this small but profound gesture was a reminder of the healing power of connection. "It jolted me out of the paperwork and deadlines," Kaitlyn recalls. "It reminded me why this work matters so much."



Kaitlyn's first year at BLF has been filled with personal and professional milestones. Turning 30, getting married, and continuing to grow in her career have made this a year to remember. But Kaitlyn isn't stopping there. She's determined to keep learning, improving, and making an even greater impact in the lives of her clients.

As we look back on Kaitlyn's journey, we're filled with pride and gratitude. Her dedication and compassion inspire us every day. Here's to Kaitlyn's first year and the incredible future ahead — because with her on our team, the possibilities are endless.

## THE BUS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN EMPTY

### A Child's Journey From Trauma to Justice

Jonathan's story is a heart-wrenching yet stark reminder of the consequences that arise when daycares neglect their basic responsibilities. In 2024, what should have been a straightforward school pickup spiraled into a harrowing nightmare that will haunt Jonathan for years. The family placed their trust in professionals who were tasked with safeguarding their child. **Still, their failure to perform a simple headcount left Jonathan locked inside a dark bus, terrified and utterly alone for a grueling two hours.**

On that day, the daycare facility carelessly bypassed crucial safety protocols: There were no name-to-face checks, accurate

attendance logs, or thorough sweeps of the bus. Jonathan found himself trapped inside a locked vehicle, vulnerable to harsh winter conditions, and completely unable to escape. When his mother arrived for the pickup, she was met with a disturbing lie—that her son had already been signed out and taken home safely.

The shocking truth only came to light when his father arrived and heard desperate banging coming from the daycare bus. It was at that moment that reality struck. Jonathan was discovered shivering uncontrollably, soaked in his own urine, and visibly pale from the stress of his ordeal. After the incident, Jonathan was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and requires ongoing counseling.

Once an outgoing child, he now battles debilitating anxiety. Outings in public trigger episodes of panic if he loses sight of his parents, and bedtime has transformed into a nightly struggle as he desperately refuses to sleep alone. The ripple effects of this incident have



disrupted Jonathan's life and created a significant strain on his entire family.

Fortunately, the responsibility for this tragic event was unmistakably clear, allowing us to secure justice for Jonathan and his family. They can now focus solely on healing from an incident that should never have happened. This case serves as a sobering reminder of the critical importance of prioritizing headcounts, safety checks, and stringent protocols in daycare settings to protect children.

Our commitment is unwavering: to hold negligent daycare facilities accountable and to advocate for the safety of every child in their care. **Jonathan's story is why we do what we do.**

## SUITE A VS. SUITE B DECK THE HALLS

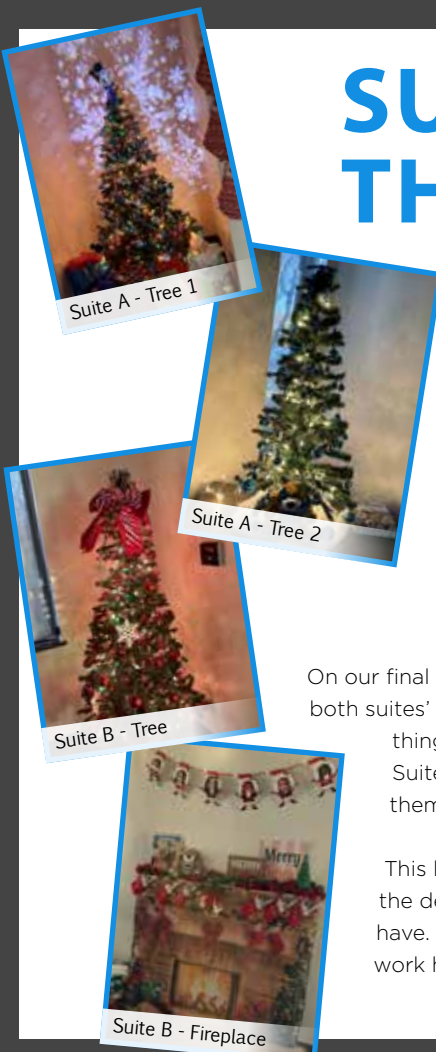
### Holiday Decorating Competition Full of Fun, Creativity, and Team Spirit

Everyone knows we mean business at BLF, but just as we approach our cases with everything we've got, we don't hold back when it comes to friendly competition. Last December, we turned up the holiday cheer with our Christmas Decorating Competition, and let's just say everyone went all out!

The rivalry between Suite A and Suite B was all in good fun, but both teams certainly brought their A-game. Twinkling lights, lush garlands, and dazzling ornaments adorned every corner. The entire team pitched in, from brainstorming creative ideas to hanging the last strand of lights. It was the perfect opportunity to take a well-deserved break from our busy schedules and come together as a team.

On our final day in the office before our holiday break, the stage was set for the big reveal. We shared a video of both suites' spectacular creations on Instagram and left it up to our followers to decide the winner. Suite A kept things sleek and stylish with a perfectly coordinated color scheme and homage to holiday classics. But Suite B went all out with an imaginative "fireplace" centerpiece that warmed hearts and ultimately earned them the title of 2024's Christmas Decorating Champions!

This lighthearted contest reminded us of the importance of camaraderie and joy in the workplace. Beyond the decorations and votes, it was a chance to laugh, collaborate, and appreciate the amazing team we have. These moments of connection are what make our office feel like a second home — a place where we work hard for our clients but also take time to celebrate the people who make it all possible.



## BLF HIGHLIGHT REEL



## CLIENT REVIEW

*"I would like to express my immeasurable gratitude to Lilia, Rosie, Jacky, Rena and Russell for taking my daughter's case. Her traumatic injury affected the whole family so you all making the legal side of things as easy as possible means alot. Thank you all."*

*-Ryan*