

How can parents be certain of a product's safety and what legal recourse is available if the product is unsafe?

Each year many lawsuits are commenced in Canada by injured users of manufactured goods. One notable case was a 1993 Ontario lawsuit alleging negligent design of an infant car seat (Stevens's v.s. Fourney). A child was seriously injured in an auto collision and the court found the seat manufacturer at fault. In most of these types of cases, however, special scientists and experts argue at length over whether the manufacturer negligently designed or produced the item. These cases can take years to resolve. One of the larger lawsuits involved a 1987 settlement with Fisher Price for \$2.25 million; the case related to a child's choking injury that occurred in 1971.

In the modern global marketplace, parents and other consumers can readily purchase goods manufactured anywhere in the world. Parents should make note of manufacturer recalls, as well as product warnings from government agencies and private consumer watchdogs. It is impossible to understand all the technicalities and potential hazards of manufactured goods; therefore it makes sense to rely on people who offer their expert advice, especially when that advice is free. If a product causes injury, there is slim practicality in a lawsuit against a manufacturer in Honduras or Malaysia.