

## STATEMENT OF SHARON HENRY

I am here today as a mother to tell the frightening story of what happened to my little boy, Deron. I am also here as a concerned consumer to ensure that this tragedy does not happen to anyone else.

My son, Deron, was very excited when he got a box of magnetic building blocks for Christmas two years ago. Like any other boy, he was eager to start building with these colorful objects. During the time we allowed him to play with the toy, we never suspected that the toy posed a hazard. We did not know that these pieces could be swallowed. We didn't know that hundreds of other children had swallowed them and that the company still had not warned parents and consumers, made the product safer, or taken the toy off the market.

Unbeknownst to us, as Deron played with these attractive magnets, he began to swallow them. Apparently the magnets stayed in his stomach and began clinging to each other. When Deron complained that his stomach hurt, we didn't know what was wrong. The pain was intense, so we took him to the doctor. X-rays revealed the presence of magnetic parts that had perforated Deron's bowel, and he needed immediate surgery. The doctors told us that if 24 more hours had passed Deron would have died.

I will live with those words for the rest of my life. If I hadn't acted quickly and taken the action that I did, my son would not be here today. Deron required 75 stitches in his bowel and doctors say he may suffer from bowel obstructions and abdominal pain for the rest of his life because of so many sutures. He must eat frequently because his bowels do not allow him to retain any food. Others have not been so fortunate to still have their children here because of this toy. Some children, like Deron, survived, but with permanent intestinal problems. We wait to see what long-term effects this incident will have on my son. Parents would never buy a toy that they knew was potentially lethal for their young, unsuspecting child.

I went to Clifford Law Offices last year and decided to file a lawsuit to make others aware of this extremely hazardous toy. I want Mega Brands toy company to understand what they did to my little boy and to our family. I am very fortunate to have seen Deron off to school today.

These little objects are not candy; they are not even toys. They are very dangerous objects masquerading as toys. This toy is composed of parts that have an extremely strong magnetic force. No parent would ever suspect that the magnetic properties of this game could literally tear holes in a child's intestinal tract.

The company did not take proper precautions, particularly when the lives of small children are involved, simply to make a profit. Manufacturers must design and test children's toys with absolute safety in mind. As consumers, we must make sure that other similar toys and pieces are not allowed to be put back on the market.

If my presence here today makes just one more parent aware of the dangers of this toy, and saves just one more child, it is well worth it. Thank you.