

PUBLIC JUSTICE



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NEWS RELEASE

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CBS Orders CSI Toy Fingerprint and Field Kits Removed from Store Shelves

CBS Broadcasting, Inc. has asked that all toy CSI: Crime Scene Investigation™ Fingerprint Examination Kits, and CSI: Crime Scene Investigation™ Field Kits be pulled off store shelves and not be sold because fingerprint powder in the kits may be contaminated with asbestos.

Public Justice, America's public interest law firm, wrote to CBS late last week on behalf of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO), requesting a meeting to discuss ADAO's findings that all five Fingerprint Examination Kits from lot "AG 100" that it tested were contaminated.

CBS, toy manufacturer Planet Toys, ADAO, and Public Justice met Tuesday and discussed the discrepancy between ADAO's test results and the results of independent tests commissioned by Planet Toys that did not find asbestos in other samples.

Late Tuesday night, Planet Toys reported that tests of kits from lot "AG 100" found no asbestos. However, ADAO contends that some kits may be contaminated while others are not. The parties are working together to develop a protocol for further testing. In the meantime, CBS has asked Planet Toys to remove the product from the market.

"ADAO is pleased to be working in unison with CBS and Planet Toys Given to protect children from toys that may be contaminated with deadly asbestos," said Linda Reinstein, ADAO Executive Director and co-founder. "Given the grave health risks associated with asbestos exposure, ADAO agrees with CBS that the toy kits should be removed from retail shelves. They should also be placed out of reach in homes until the testing dispute is resolved. Once asbestos is inhaled or swallowed, the damage is irreversible."

ADAO is a nonprofit advocacy organization for asbestos victims. It conducted an 18-month study that tested over 250 commonly-found consumer products for asbestos, and released its findings to the public on November 28. Three independent laboratories participating in the study confirmed the presence of asbestos in the white fingerprint powder found in the CSI "Fingerprint Examination Kit."

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Public Justice (formerly Trial Lawyers for Public Justice) is America's public interest law firm. Dedicated to using trial lawyers' and other attorneys' skills and resources to advance the public good, Public Justice is supported by -- and can call on -- a nationwide network of more than 3,000 of the nation's top lawyers to pursue precedent-setting and socially significant litigation. It has a wide-ranging litigation docket in the areas of consumer rights, worker safety, civil rights and liberties, toxic torts, environmental protection, and access to the courts. Public Justice is the principal project of The Public Justice Foundation, a not-for-profit membership organization headquartered in Washington, DC, with a West Coast office in Oakland, California. The Public Justice web site address is www.publicjustice.net.

