



It's real.

MEMORANDUM

To: City of Seguin Mayor and Council
From: Andy Quittner, City Attorney *AQ*
Date: May 5, 2022
Re: Repealing use of "Children at Play" warning signs

In 2003 a section was added to the Seguin Code of Ordinances to allow persons who desired a "Children at Play" sign in their neighborhood to make an application the Seguin Police Chief who was vested with the authority to grant or deny the request. No standards or guidelines exist in the ordinance to assist the Chief in making the decision.

Over the years studies have shown that most "warning" signs – such as "Children at Play" are ineffective, at best. Federal standards discourage the use of "children at play" signs.

Studies made in cities where such signs were widely posted in residential areas show no evidence of having reduced pedestrian crashes, vehicle speed or legal liability. In fact, many types of signs which were installed to warn of normal conditions in residential areas failed to achieve the desired safety benefits. Further, if signs encourage parents with children to believe they have an added degree of protection - - which the signs do not and cannot provide - - a greater disservice results. Obviously, children should not be encouraged to play in the roadway. The "children at play" sign is a direct and open suggestion that it is acceptable to do so.

The best way to increase safety is proper road design along with speed limits that are set for the surrounding neighborhood and uses.