

Bentley's Law

In 2023, Tennessee was the first state to pass what is known as a Bentley's Law. During the next two years, two additional states (Texas and Kentucky) passed similar laws. Other states have considered, or are considering, a law of this type. Typical Bentley Laws contain the following provisions:

- If an intoxicated driver causes the death of a parent of under-age children, the driver is required to pay restitution to the child or children until they graduate from high school or reach the age of 18.
- The exact amount is determined by a court based on the needs of the child.
- If the offender goes to jail or prison, the payments will typically be suspended and then resume once the offender is released.
- The offender can be required to later make the payments missed due to a period of incarceration.

Are laws like this a good idea? Discuss the pros and cons.

Pros

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Cons

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____
