



Seufert Law Offices, PA

We'll Get You Through It

From the Captain's Log and M-54 and a Gaggle of Kids



It all started in February, 2019. A quiet evening at a charitable dinner. At the auction part, up came a chance to ride on a M-54, a double-deuce and a half, 5-ton military truck that would participate in the upcoming 2019 City of Franklin Community Day Parade. Being a prior military man, and being that the auction was for a good cause (fundraising for the future white-water park in the City of Franklin) I became the high bidder.

The M-54 came to life after the Korean war and before the Vietnam war, serving with distinction up thru the 1980's. It's top speed was a jaw rattling 45 mph, with its Cummins based in-line 6 cylinder diesel and 5-speed spicer transmission. But mounted with the M45 Quadmount a/k/a "meat chopper" Browning 50 cal's, it could reach out and touch the enemy standing still. Alas, technology overtook sheer brute force, and the M-54 was retired, most units then being auctioned off as

surplus governmental property. And so came the fine specimen that joined the 2019 Franklin Community Day Parade.

Now usually getting all my kids and grandkids together on a weekend takes an act of Congress, but one pic of the M-54 and a quick text invite to the kids had them all show up for the ride. I told them to meet me at 7:30 am, they all got there at 7:00 am. So up they all went onto this behemoth beast and down the center of the City streets at 5 mph. There is something to be said for being large and in charge.

It was nice to see that the current private owners of this M-54 took great pride on keeping it period authentic, the M-54 is a marvel of simple – but brute force. ●



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Advantages of Alternative Dispute Resolution



Sometimes divorce litigation in the courtroom is the only option for a divorcing couple, especially if there are matters of serious disagreement – if hostility and strong distrust exists between the parties, or if past emotional and/or physical abuse was a factor in the relationship.

However, for cases that fall outside that domain, out-of-court methods for resolving issues in divorce are becoming increasingly popular and fall under the banner of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The two most common forms of ADR include divorce mediation and collaborative divorce.

Divorce mediation involves an impartial third-party mediator who facilitates communication between the parties and offers suggestions for creative problem solving, enabling both parties to reach a voluntary agreement. Mediators are not there to judge or determine who's right or wrong. If a settlement cannot be reached, the couple still has the option of litigation. The advantage of mediated agreements is that the mediator usually then files the agreement with the court, which is quickly approved.

Collaborative divorce is another process. There is no mediator at all; each party is accompanied by their attorney, and meetings take place at a neutral location. Couples can work together in a positive, results-focused setting to come to terms on matters of child custody and visitation, child support, and division of property. Experts in accounting and asset valuation may be called in to assist with technical aspects. If the couple cannot come to an agreement and decide to go the litigation route, their respective lawyers cannot be retained for the court case.

ADR processes are generally less adversarial, quicker, and more cost-effective ways to deal with divorce. They also avoid the stress of having to step into a courtroom and the uncertainty inherent in a trial. •

A Stinging Rebuke



During outdoor summertime activities, humans may cross paths with bees, wasps, or hornets. As many can attest, they sting when threatened. The human body reacts to the venom in various ways. It's important to know the difference between a "normal" reaction and an allergic reaction.

All stings produce pain, swelling, redness, and itchiness. For those who are not allergic to bee stings, symptoms will remain at the site of the sting and typically clear up within a few hours. (A sting in the mouth or eye warrants immediate medical attention.) For some people, symptoms may linger for a few days, but they should not worsen. If redness or swelling covers an area several inches wide or more, play it safe by giving your doctor a call.

Anaphylaxis is a severe reaction to a bee sting and can be life-threatening.

Additional sting symptoms may appear anytime within roughly two hours of the sting and occur away from the sting site. They include respiratory difficulty, trouble swallowing, and hives and/or swelling. **Seek medical help immediately.**

Remove a bee's stinger with the edge of a credit card or fingernail. Don't use tweezers or fingers, which can squeeze out more venom. A thorough washing, ice, over-the-counter pain reliever, cortisone cream, and/or Benadryl® may help relieve "normal" symptoms. Avoid scratching the sting site.

A person can develop a bee-sting allergy at any time in their life. They may have been stung 20 times previously without a problem, but there's no guarantee the 21st time will go as smoothly.

If you receive multiple stings, the sheer quantity of venom could cause a severe reaction. It's best to seek medical attention right away. •

We're Not Married: Who Has The Right To The Residence If The Relationship Ends



One of the issues that comes up in a situation where a couple is living together, but not married, is who gets to stay in the residence if that relationship ends. When a couple gets married they acknowledge that they have legal duties and responsibilities to one another. If a couple wants to end the marriage they file a request with the court for a divorce. A divorce dissolves the legal responsibilities that a

married couple has to one another including the debts and assets that they have accumulated.

If a couple is not married, a court does not have the authority to divide assets and debts, including any shared residence. That is because the parties have not acknowledged that they have any legal duties and responsibilities to each other. Therefore, there are no legal obligations for the court to dissolve. The only issues the court can resolve are parenting time with or monetary obligations to children.

The residence issue is even more complicated because the parties are not in a landlord/tenant relationship. Therefore, neither party can ask the court for protection under those laws, either. This is true even if one of the parties owned or leased the residence prior to the relationship and invited the other party to move in. The only venue that the parties have to resolve this matter is in Superior or Probate Court. Proceedings in those courts tend to be expensive and lengthy. It is important to be aware of these issues prior to making a decision to live together as a couple. If you have any questions, seek legal advice before you do. •

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The Perils of Recorded Statements

If you are the innocent victim in an auto crash, the other party's insurance company will be calling, requesting that you give a statement and likely wanting to record it. *Never agree to either without the guidance of an auto accident attorney.*

An insurance adjuster's allegiance is to their company, not you. If the police report already has found the other driver at fault, why is the adjuster wanting a recorded statement from you? Are they looking for you to say something that now allows them to deny the claim, minimize compensation payouts, shift the blame.

You are under no legal obligation to give a statement, recorded or otherwise. And there's no upside to doing so. Here's how recorded statements can harm claims:

- They can be compared with other statements a person makes, such as those with an investigating police officer or during a lawsuit deposition. Multiple statements made weeks or months apart may show inconsistencies (which isn't unusual). The adjuster may then seek to exploit that.
- Adjusters are well-versed in asking questions that may trap or trick you into responses that weaken your claim.
- An adjuster may ask a claimant how they're feeling. A claimant who answers that question may come to regret it, as some injuries don't become evident until days, even weeks, later. And once a recorded statement is taken, there are no do-overs.

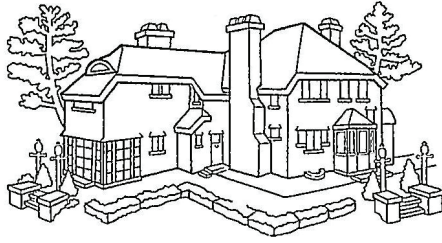
If you are injured in an auto accident, contact an auto accident attorney to protect your interests. •



June 2019 Notable Dates

- June 1**
National Bubbly Day
- June 5**
National Running Day
- June 8**
National Upsy Daisy Day
- June 13**
National Kitchen Klutzes of America Day
- June 17**
National Eat Your Vegetables Day
- June 21**
Go Skateboarding Day
- June 23**
National Pink Day
- June 27**
National Sunglasses Day

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Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights



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This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

Cathy's
Corner

Beer Can Chicken

If you have never made beer can chicken, it is both very easy and incredibly good. The other advantage it has for me is that it is cooked on the grill by my husband and involves no clean up. (So, to be honest, my statement that it's very easy is based on the fact that I do none of the work.)

To start, buy a roaster chicken. You can decide how big you would like the chicken, or turkey, to be. This is the only part in the cooking process that I have. Once you're ready to cook the chicken, make a dry rub of your choice. My husband likes to alternate between a few recipes. Put the dry rub on the chicken and let it sit until the meat is at room temperature.

Take a can of beer and open it. To get the best results, you'll want to pick a strong tasting beer. Put the chicken over the top of the beer can so that the can ends up literally inside the chicken. Now, put the whole thing on the grill at a medium (325 degrees type) temperature. The length of time it takes to cook will depend on the size of the bird and the temperature of your grill. Once the chicken is cooked let it sit for at least fifteen minutes, carve and eat. You will have some of the best chicken you've ever eaten. ●

