



Seufert Law Offices, PA

We'll Get You Through It

From the Captain's Log Of grandkids and dolphins



The coming of fall always has my boys itching to do our annual offshore fishing trip, and this time it was extra special because three of the grandchildren came with us. As we always do, we head out of Portsmouth the afternoon before to catch our baitfish off of Star Island and then grab a mooring in Gosport Harbor at the Isle of Shoals to overnight. Being Labor Day weekend the Isle of Shoals was packed, and the lone mooring available was right up against the seawall nestled between other moorings crammed with boats. Weaving between the tightly moored boats, with inches to spare on either side, got some chided looks, but we slipped through without fanfare. Once moored the barbie came out, along with the beer coolers. The grandchildren were running all over the boat looking into the clear as gin waters beneath us and pointing out all the marine life below. Getting quiet time with my grandkids and seeing their facial expressions on the wonders of the ocean, well, priceless.



The next morning at o'dark thirty we headed offshore to Jeffries Ledge and busted the fish to the point that we just started throwing them back. Then, on the return trip to Portsmouth, we were surrounded by pods of dolphins that had to have been a thousand strong. We slowed to idle speed and watched the display of dancing and swirling until they disappeared beneath the waves as quietly as they had appeared.

While I always appreciate my kids and grandkids being around, to be able to show them the beauty of the oceans, and see them appreciate it as much as I have, what more could a parent ask for. ●



September 2019 News



Tailgating Season in Full Swing

Football and tailgating parties go hand in hand at many college and professional football stadiums across the country. Most tailgating parties feature camaraderie, appetizing gameday food and drink, and a festive atmosphere leading into the big game. Unfortunately, a number of circumstances occasionally conspire to spoil a good time and cause injury.



Not surprisingly, alcohol fuels a good portion of reckless actions while tailgating. Some tailgaters operate a motor vehicle while impaired and cause harm to others. Grilling while inebriated isn't exactly a stellar fire-prevention measure. Many physical altercations can be attributed to alcohol consumption as well.

Other causes of tailgating-related injuries include tailgaters who impede traffic flow or cut off pedestrian lanes. Broken glass that hasn't been cleaned up can be hazardous. Dehydration and fatigue can negatively affect an attendee's judgment and motor skills—some tailgaters commence festivities at the crack of dawn! Errant football tosses by careless revelers can inflict damage, too.

Responsibility for injuries or property damage may rest with an individual who was acting negligently, the stadium owner, a university, or a fraternity/sorority. Stadium owners and universities are responsible for adequate security/law enforcement, posted warnings or policies, proper lighting, etc. Universities also need to be vigilant in monitoring underage drinking. Fraternities, sororities, or even a friend who is acting as host "tailgater" and may be supplying the alcohol are subject to New Hampshire's "host social liability laws".

If you are injured while attending a tailgating party or simply passing through the area, establishing liability can sometimes be tricky. Contact an experienced personal injury attorney to protect your rights. •

Nursing Home Falls Can Be Deadly



According to the National Council on Aging, falls are the leading cause of fatal injury among older Americans (age 65+), encompassing traumatic brain injuries and fractures, among other conditions. Fatalities might not be immediate but eventually result due to medical complications. Non-fatal falls can severely impact quality of life.

Falls are frequently a reason why family members make the difficult decision to place an elderly loved one in a nursing home or assisted-living facility. Skilled nursing facilities have a legal obligation to thoroughly assess the health and needs of each individual resident, develop an effective care plan, and bring staff members up to speed on the plan.

Some nursing home falls are accidental and unavoidable. Others, however, could have been prevented and may have occurred due to the following:

- **Understaffing.** Some facilities seek to reduce costs by cutting back on staff. Overworked employees get fatigued, lose focus, and make critical mistakes. Residents may tire of waiting for assistance and take on certain tasks themselves ... and fall.
- **Improper training.** Some staff do not know how to properly monitor high-risk residents, or are inadequately trained on how to safely transfer patients (e.g., from a bed to a wheelchair).
- **Medication errors.** The wrong medications or incorrect dosages may cause dizziness, weakness, confusion, etc.
- **Faulty medical equipment.** A defective walker, wheelchair, lift, or bed rails might cause harm.
- **Environmental hazards.** Poor lighting, wet floors, and hallway/room obstacles elevate the risk of falls.

Between one-half and three-quarters of all nursing home residents fall each year, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics. If your loved one is injured in a fall due to negligence, contact a nursing home attorney to protect their rights. •

New Hampshire Divorce Process



Going through a divorce is a difficult time in anyone's life — trying to navigate the legal process can prove to be a complicated process if you're doing it alone. If you're seeking a divorce in New Hampshire, it is best to work with an experienced divorce attorney who can help you in this new chapter of your life. Continue reading to learn more

about the divorce process in New Hampshire.

Navigating the Divorce Process in New Hampshire

1. **(Things to consider before you get started) Issues that will need to be resolved during the course of the divorce:**

Once you've decided to file for divorce, it is important to take a few things into consideration.

- a. Under what grounds to you plan to file? New Hampshire is commonly a 'no-fault' divorce state, meaning no one is at fault for the dissolution of the marriage, and you have decided to get divorced because of differences that can not be repaired. If there is a reason you wish to seek a divorce, you will have to have evidence ready to prove that reason.
- b. Will there be children involved during this process? If so, you'll need to take special consideration for how you wish to proceed. **Issues will be parenting time as well as child support and other expenses related to the costs of raising children.** There will be **(additional hearings to determine parenting time as well as)** a mandatory parenting class.
- c. Do you have any assets or debts that you'll need to split? Have you considered what you'll want to leave the marriage with? Is alimony an issue? Who will continue to reside in the marital home, if anyone?

2. Filing the petition

(Once you have decided on all of the above considerations, it is time to file the petition.) You'll file the petition at the Clerk of Court's office in the family division that covers the area where you live. You'll need to submit the original document signed and notarized. This is also when you will pay the filing fee.

3. Orders of Notice Scheduling

A few weeks after submitting your petition for divorce, you'll receive paperwork in the mail with instructions on serving your partner with divorce papers. This paperwork will also include instructions for the next steps. What happens next depends upon the circumstances of your particular case. If you have children, if you have filed under particular grounds, or if you and your partner are in disagreement about how to split your debts or assets, are all things that will affect what happens next.

4. Hire an Experienced Divorce Attorney

Having an experienced attorney on your side will help the divorce process go much easier on you. This can be a confusing and difficult time in your life, so having a professional navigating the confusing legal process for you can ensure you make the best decision possible for yourself and your family.

If you are ready to work with an experienced divorce attorney in New Hampshire, schedule a consultation with Seufert Law. Our experienced attorneys will help you through every step of the process and always have your best interest at heart. •

September 2019 Notable Dates

September 4
National Wildlife
Day

September 7
World Beard Day

September 9
National Teddy Bear Day

September 13
Day of the Programmer

September 16
National Working
Parents Day

September 19
National Butterscotch
Pudding Day

September 21
Big Whopper Liar Day

September 26
National
Pancake Day

Seufert Law Offices, PA
Attorneys At Law



59 Central Street, Franklin, NH 03235
(603) 934-9837

www.seufertlaw.com

Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights



Of grandkids
and dolphins

SEE PAGE ONE

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

I recently had the pleasure of attending my husband's fortieth reunion from Ashland High School. The nice thing for me is that I have also been to the tenth, twentieth and thirtieth reunions. My husband remains close to his best friend from growing up. So, going to the reunions is like seeing old friends. (And at this point in our lives, old means old). We met at the Common Man, in Ashland of course.

There cannot be any alumni events at the high school. It doesn't exist anymore. Ten years after my husband graduated, Ashland started sending its students to Plymouth High School. That's because the cost of maintaining a high school at which the total number of students ran about 100 became cost prohibitive. My husband graduated with 31 other students. It was the largest class Ashland ever had. His sister graduated with 22.

There are a lot of advantages to a larger high school. The larger the school, the more opportunity for academic challenges. Larger schools have the capability to offer tech classes. There are more options for extracurricular activities. Ashland had one class for each subject and the class offerings were limited. There was just one sport for boys and girls offered each season. There was a small band and chorus.

However, I sat at a table with those classmates and envied their camaraderie. More than a third of the class was there, 11 people and their significant others. It was like being at a family reunion. Even I knew everyone at the table, and I am definitely an outsider – a flatlander as they say up there. Here's to Ashland High School. ●

