



Seufert Law Offices, PA

We'll Get You Through It



From the Captain's Log Winter to Summer and Nothing In-between

Well 2020 has not been much different then prior years. We have our 3-4 days of "spring" and then summer begins. The middle of May I was out to Portsmouth washing and waxing the boat in a blizzard and the heat is on high at home and the office. 2-weeks later, all the trees at the office come into full bloom and I am turning on the air conditioners. Winter to summer.

Litigator is now pulling at its mooring at Great Bay Marine in Portsmouth, waiting to sail, like a puppy when he sees his master grab the leash to take him for a walk, jumping with excitement to go. Soon the kids will be aboard for weekend sails to whatever marinas/docks may be opening this summer, and fishing poles will be out and fish and lobster will find its way on the grill and beer to the cooler.

We have all been through a lot these past few months and some return to normalcy is a welcome relief.

So to all our friends and clients, stay safe – but have some fun. ●



June 2020 News



Domestic Violence Related Offenses and the Seizure of Weapons

If you are arrested for a domestic violence related offense or served with a Domestic Violence or Stalking Petition which includes a restraining order, the officer making the arrest or serving the petition will also seize any deadly weapons in your possession. This seizure does not only apply to firearms. It applies to any deadly weapon, such as a bow and arrow or even a knife. Once any weapons are seized, you must get an order from the Court for the weapons to be returned.



Do you have to be the owner of the weapon in order for it to be seized? The short answer is no. Possession is a much broader category than ownership. Possession means that you have potential to control the weapon. So, if you live in the same household with someone who owns a deadly weapon, you would probably be able to control, or use, the weapon. It is not uncommon for deadly weapons to be seized from someone other than the true owner of the weapon. For as long as those bail conditions are in place the weapons will be held by whichever law enforcement agency seized them.

Once the bail conditions have been lifted, the weapons will not automatically be returned. The individual from whom they were seized must file a motion with the court for the return of the weapons. The court will hold a hearing to determine if the weapons can be returned. Generally, the only reason that the Court will deny a motion to return weapons is if the individual seeking the return has a conviction which precludes them from purchasing firearms. The process is the same if the weapons have been seized pursuant to a domestic violence or stalking petition. Once the petition has been dismissed or the order has elapsed, you can file a motion for return of weapons. •

Filing Bankruptcy during COVID19



Meta Description: Discover how COVID19 is changing the New Hampshire Bankruptcy process, and how Seufert Law can help.

The COVID19 pandemic has left many Americans out of work and struggling to keep up with debt payments. Filing for bankruptcy is an option for anyone who has debt they can not reasonably afford. However, the pandemic has led to several changes that you should be aware of before you start the process.

How to File Bankruptcy During COVID19

With the restrictions put on social gatherings, you may find it difficult to complete the bankruptcy process during COVID19. Seufert Law can help. The process can be complete, but there are a few different rules we are all navigating together.

Virtual Meetings

We are offering video conferences to comply with safety guidelines. We can discuss your situation and if bankruptcy is right for you. All you have to do for a free consultation is go to our Website - Seufertlaw.com and use the Video Chat menu to pick a date/time that works for you online. An email link will then be sent to you. At the selected date/time you use a smartphone, tablet, or laptop or computer with a camera and click the link and you're in, no downloading of software is necessary. We will then discuss your particular situation and questions and determine if Bankruptcy would help.

Electronic Signatures

Typically, you must physically sign your petition of bankruptcy, now we can do that via a Video Chat.

Meeting of Creditors

Now the bankruptcy hearings are via phone conferencing, no attendance at the Federal Bankruptcy Courthouse in Concord, NH is necessary. You either participate by coming to our office and we do this with you over the phone with the Court, or you can participate remotely from your home.

Monthly Income

Your stimulus check and other payments issued by the Federal Government do not count towards your income. You do not need to worry about these payments affecting your eligibility to file for bankruptcy.

Filing for Bankruptcy in New Hampshire

If you need to file for bankruptcy in New Hampshire, let Seufert Law help. We will help you navigate the process so that you can regain financial freedom. Go to our website and set up a free Zoom Video consultation. •

COVID-19's Impact on Personal Injury Cases



Despite the COVID-19 craziness, personal injury attorneys stand ready to assist those who have been injured due to negligence. Attorneys can handle cases remotely via phone calls, emails, and videoconferencing, reducing your risk of COVID-19 exposure. Don't wait until the COVID-19 crisis simmers down to file a personal injury claim. Delays will lower your case value.

Insurance companies may contact you before you hire an attorney. Agreeing to an immediate settlement (and assuredly a lowball offer) may be tempting due to virus-inspired economic distress, but it won't benefit you in the long run.

Courthouse schedule alterations and procedure modifications due to COVID-19 could slow your case's progress. For cases that reach settlement, clients generally will not have to step foot in a courtroom. For those that go to trial, clients will only need to make a limited number of court appearances. By the time recently filed cases reach trial stage, the COVID-19 threat may have dissipated (hopefully!).

Mandatory pre-trial mediation has now gone to Zoom, with the mediator online safely from her office and participants from their homes/offices.

Yes, a brave new world.

The COVID-19 economic turmoil has inflicted damage on insurance companies' bottom lines. Insurance companies have ramped-up motivation to limit the value of claims and take cases to trial.

More drivers may forgo paying their auto insurance premiums due to financial difficulty wrought by COVID-19. If you are injured in a crash involving an insurance-less, at-fault driver, recovering anything might be a pipedream. A proper amount of uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage is a critical safeguard.

Despite the COVID-19 threat, you *must* receive physician-recommended medical treatments and evaluations to maintain your case's value. Otherwise, it will be impossible to prove the extent of your injuries. Practice the recommended COVID-19 precautions.

Injury incidents caused by negligence will persist, even when a pandemic turns society upside down. Contact a personal injury attorney to protect your rights. •

June 2020 Notable Dates

June 1
National Barefoot Day

June 3
National Repeat Day

June 3
National Repeat Day

June 7
National VCR Day

June 9
Call Your Doctor Day

June 13
National Weed Your Garden Day

June 20
National Vanilla Milkshake Day

June 23
National Pink Day

June 30
National Meteor Watch Day

Toilet Paper ... the Bottom Line



Perforated toilet paper on a roll, the brainchild of brothers Clarence and E. Irvin Scott, has only been around since 1890. For many centuries prior, anything free and readily available would have to suffice for bathroom tidy-ups — for instance, leaves, grass, hay, seashells, rocks, fruit, skins, sand, sticks, rags, snow, and water. Occasionally, rough edges and splinters could threaten one's nether regions.

Ancient Romans used a sponge on a stick that was rinsed in saltwater or a vinegar solution and sometimes used ... communally! In precolonial America, when corn was consumed, let's just say the cobs didn't go to waste.

The ancient Chinese invented paper, and by the year 1400 A.D., they had something akin to modern toilet paper. It was produced in flat sheets, perfumed, and reserved for the emperor and his family.

In the 15th century, paper became more widely available (but was expensive); eventually, newspapers served a dual purpose. By the late 19th century, the Sears, Roebuck & Co. Catalogue and the *Old Farmer's Almanac* became stars in American outhouses. The almanac even came off the presses with a hole in the corner for hanging.

Though perforated toilet paper on a roll was a great leap forward, the public didn't immediately embrace it — it spotlighted an embarrassing subject and wasn't free. But with the advent of indoor plumbing and flush toilets, Americans gradually warmed up to it. Their pipes demanded it.

Now, we can't imagine living without it. In 1973, *Tonight Show* host Johnny Carson joked about a toilet paper shortage. Viewers took him seriously and reacted. A misperception, chain-reaction freak-outs, and barren store shelves — TP has come a long way. •

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Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights



Winter to
Summer
and Nothing
In-between

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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.

Under Twenty-One and DWI

The legal minimum drinking age in every state has been 21 since 1988. Many states had lowered the drinking age in the late 1960s and early 1970s to age 18. The results were disturbing, as the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities rose precipitously.

For those under age 21 who drink and drive, it's not about driving under the influence—it's about any drinking and driving, period. Every state has a "zero tolerance" statute of some kind. New Hampshire has a blood-alcohol limit of 0.02; any reading equal to or higher than that is a violation of the law—as opposed to the 0.08 limit for drivers age 21 and over. Some states have a true zero-tolerance policy, in other words any blood-alcohol which registers over a 0.00. To provide some context, a blood-alcohol level of 0.02 can be achieved with one beer.

Underage drinking and driving statistics are alarming. Nearly a third of all deaths of 15–20-year-olds are the result of motor vehicle crashes, and approximately 35 percent of those involve alcohol. Alcohol as a factor in auto accidents is twice as high percentage-wise for underage drivers as it is for those ages 21 and over.

Some progress has been made over the last decade or so, but far too many lives continue to be taken or irreparably harmed by this often tragic combination of activities. Teens are going to continue to find ways to obtain alcohol. As parents, we need to find ways to prevent our teens from consuming alcohol and driving a car. ●

