



Seufert Law Offices, PA

We'll Get You Through It

From the Captain's Log Socially Distant

July 4th, 2020. Most celebrations scuttled due to the pandemic so I decided to spend the long weekend on the boat in Portsmouth Harbor. The weather was perfect, a hint of a cool breeze at night and hot, sunny days. Loaded up the cooler and headed for the marina. The family decided to join me later in the weekend so "socially distant" and alone on the boat I would be.

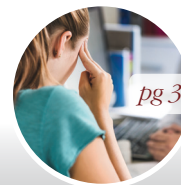
Socially distant on a boat is not really distant. There is little light pollution on the ocean so the night sky is fantastic. The evening of the 4th was almost a full moon and the view from the cockpit of Litigator was fantastic. An evening with a nice glass of wine and listening to the waves and watching the moon and the stars, how is that socially distant – being close to the world that surrounds around you, free of the world of noise and distractions (cell coverage is spotty also).

Just north of the marina is the small inlet of Newington Harbor, moorings are for town residents only but there is a small anchorage for 2-3 boats and no takers but Litigator that night. To the northeast are the ocean side towns of Kittery and York and to the southeast Rye and Hampton. While the festivities were subdued, plenty of fireworks were alit up and down the coast to make it a great July 4th celebration.

Socially distant – bring it on. ●



July 2020 News



The Process of a Divorce/Parenting Petition And Court

A divorce and a parenting petition have a very similar process making their way through court. Both actions begin with the filing of a Petition and end with Orders which always include a Final Decree and may include orders on child support, alimony and parenting time. The difference between the two is that in a Parenting Petition because the parties are not married, there is no joint property. In other words, the Court cannot order a division of debt and assets.



Both cases start with the filing of a Petition. If there are children in a divorce, it will also include a Uniform Support Order (child support) and a Parenting Plan, which are the two most important documents in a Parenting Petition. Sometimes in a Parenting Petition the parties are living together and neither party wants to give up the residence. In a divorce, a residence is marital property and the parties can ask the judge for an order if they cannot come to an agreement. In a Parenting Petition, because the parties do not have a legal obligation to each other, the judge only has jurisdiction over any children. Therefore, a judge cannot settle the dispute regarding the residence or any other property, such as a bank account, that the parties may have in common.

Both a divorce and a parenting case can be settled by agreement, mediation or through hearings at the Court. If a case does end up in litigation at Court, the judge will make important decisions about parenting time, child support and who gets what debts or assets. If you can come to an agreement it means you control the outcome of your case rather than leaving the outcome to a judge who is not familiar with the parties or their situation. •



Our Enduring National Symbol

The powerful and majestic bald eagle — our country's national bird since 1782 — was not admired by Ben Franklin, who spoke disparagingly of the creature in a 1784 letter to his daughter. He deemed the bald eagle a “bird of bad moral character [who] does not get his living honestly.” Bald eagles sometimes cop a free meal by stealing fish from other birds. Evidently this rankled Franklin, who believed the “respectable” turkey to be a superior national symbol. Had a bald eagle once stolen Franklin's lunch?

Bald eagles flourished on this continent prior to European settlement, but settlement gradually brought about habitat destruction. Bald eagles, also viewed as competition for game and a threat to livestock, were killed. By 1940, protected status was required.

Shortly after World War II, the pesticide DDT further reduced their numbers, thinning their eggshells, many of which would break. But with the banning of DDT in 1972 and the rise of conservationist breeding programs, they have mounted a spectacular comeback.

Bald eagles typically mate for life, share in parenting duties, and return to the same nest each year, after a little touch-up work. Their nests are enormous — on average, four to five feet wide and two to four feet deep. They are composed of interwoven sticks and lined with grass, cornstalks, moss, and feathers.

One bald eagle downer is its “voice,” which is comparable to a cackling laugh ill-suited to its image. When movie/television directors film a nature scene involving a bald eagle, they frequently dub in the more impressive scream of a red-tailed hawk. However, it is believed bald eagles do all their own stunts. •



Traumatic Brain Injuries Can Change Lives Forever

Traumatic brain injuries (TBI), whether mild, moderate or severe, can have far-reaching and long-lasting ramifications for victims. Mild implying “well just a little brain damaged”!

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), falls and vehicular accidents account for most TBI hospitalizations. Injuries can be *physical*, ranging from headaches, dizziness, and fatigue, to vision impairment, chronic pain, and paralysis; *cognitive*, including memory issues, inability to concentrate, disorientation, and impaired decision-making and judgment; and *emotional*, which may manifest as depression, irritability, and significant personality and behavioral changes.

Per the CDC, severe TBIs also render a victim more vulnerable to epileptic seizures, future Alzheimer’s disease or other brain disorders, and a shortened life span.

Some brain injuries are immediately obvious. The victim is in a coma, their skull is fractured, or swelling or bleeding on the brain shows up on imaging tests. But many TBIs occur at a near-microscopic level, frequently evading initial detection. In addition, symptoms sometimes take days, weeks, or months to develop.

Additionally, not every TBI requires a blow to the head. For instance, whiplash can cause the brain to bounce off the inside of the skull, but no external blow was delivered. To dispel another myth, a person does not have to lose consciousness to suffer a TBI.

Many people fully recover from “mild” TBIs. However, various studies indicate that 10 to 20 percent will have lasting effects after one year — some for the rest of their lives.

Claims adjusters and insurance defense attorneys frequently attempt to minimize the extent of brain injuries, well “just a little brain damage”. If you are a victim of negligence, seek prompt medical attention and contact a personal injury attorney to safeguard your interests. ●

July 2020 Notable Dates

July 1
National Postal
Worker Day

July 5
National Workaholics Day

July 9
Cow Appreciation Day

July 12
National Different
Colored Eyes Day

July 18
National Caviar Day

July 20
National Moon Day

July 25
National
Merry-Go-Round Day

July 31
National Avocado
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



Socially
Distant

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.



Asbestos ... Still a Threat After All These Years

Until the 1970s, asbestos and lead— both naturally occurring, had been widely utilized in a multitude of insulation, construction, manufacturing, paints, and other materials. Asbestos noted for its high resistance to heat, chemical, and electrical damage, lead as being tough as nails when added to paints, or as plumbing in water pipes.

However, the tide turned in the 1970s due to asbestos proven link to deadly diseases and lead to brain damage in children. Over time, people exposed to asbestos are at a substantially increased risk for mesothelioma, lung cancer, asbestosis. Children exposed to lead, even for short periods, developing devastating brain damage.

From 1940 to 1970, roughly 27.5 million American workers were exposed to asbestos. Children exposure to lead even higher. Tragically, companies were aware of the damage asbestos and lead could cause but withheld that information from the public or sponsored “research” that downplayed the risks. Millions of people became poisoned. Even workers using these products unsuspecting bringing the toxins home to their families on their clothing.

Why are asbestos and lead lawsuits still in the news? Because they are still in buildings/residential housing and poisoning people. Most buildings built prior to 1978 contain both lead paints and asbestos. With asbestos, the time between exposure and symptoms can be 10 to 50 years. In lead poisoning to children, symptoms of brain damage may take 5-10 years to develop. Someone exposed to asbestos in 1975 might not experience the effects until 2025.

If you suspect asbestos or lead paint exposure contact a toxic torts attorney to protect your rights. •