



Seufert Law Offices, PA

We'll Get You Through It

From the Captain's Log Over the Hog Back We Go



So my son has a great idea. When our 153 acre gravel pit in Hill, NH is soon mined out he wants to turn it into a campground. But that means all the large mining equipment will probably not be needed to run a campground so he has started to slowly liquidate those pieces. In their place he wants to purchase smaller pieces that would be more useful in campground operations. And this is the opening to this month's piece.

See, my son never sources things local, he is more of a frugal spender and if you can find the same thing cheaper, so what's a little travel. He finds a Case mini-ex that would be much more practical than the 40-ton excavator he currently has in the pit. It also comes with attachments such as a rock hammer (good for busting thru some ledge), and also an articulating mower, (perfect for trimming back trees and mowing camp sites) and at a price that is close to being too good to be true. Only thing is, the machine is in NY, outside NYC near Poughkeepsie, a "little road trip" Dad. So at 5:00 am we set off from Franklin NH en route to Poughkeepsie. There are basically three (3) ways to go, all equidistant, out Rt 9 and over the Hog Back in VT to Albany and down I-87, or down I-93, around I-495 to the Mass Pike to I-87, or down thru Boston to I-90 to I-84 to I-87. It's a beautiful day, who wants MA and Boston traffic, over the Hog Back we go. Just as the sun is rising we crest Hog Back Mountain and stop for a photo op, a stunning view that puts life into perspective. But we have hundreds of miles to go so a quick pic and on the road. Once we get off I-87 near New Paltz NY we are a little hungry so stop at one of those non-descript locally owned country stores, no neon signs and flash, just a few locals making sandwiches with locally sourced ingredients, and what sandwiches they made us. Barely able to get back into his pick-up truck we are fooded out for the day.



At the allotted time we get to the guy's house who's selling the mini-ex, it's all exactly as advertised. The seller is a Wall Street guy, mid-40's, and with COVID-19 decided to buy an old farm w/barn on the side of a mountain and convert the barn into a remote office to reduce his time in NYC. He bought the mini-ex to do a little work on this conversion but was done with it, with only a few hundred hours on it and nearly a scratch, it still had that "new car smell". Money changes hands, up on the trailer it goes, the rig probably now overweight (maybe the sandwiches) and back to NH, uneventful. It was as much as seeing all the wonderful sights along the way as spending some time with my son – priceless. ●

December 2021 News



Parenting Issues in Family Court Cases

The question of time with and decision making for children are of course the most important issues in family court cases. The language that we use to discuss these issues has changed over time. We no longer talk about “custody”. The parties now make proposals for “parenting time”. The change in the wording is an attempt to make the issue less contentious.

In addition, the law in New Hampshire now starts with the presumption that shared, essentially equal, parenting time is what is in the best interests of the minor children. There is no doubt that children do better when their parents are equal partners in their lives. If a parent asks the court for something other than equal parenting time that parent will have to provide a rationale for that request to the court.

Decision-making, like parenting time, is presumed to be equal, or joint as the law describes it. In other words, parents need to co-parent to make important decisions for their children. Parenting as a couple is difficult. Parenting after a separation is much more so. However, the Court expects that parents will work toward the common goal of raising happy and healthy children. ●



The Evolution of Santa Claus



In the fourth century A.D., a man from Myra (located in modern-day Turkey) named Nicholas became a Catholic bishop renowned for his generosity, gift-giving, and strong faith. Children held a special place in his heart due to the struggles he endured as a child after his parents died from the plague.

Nicholas was canonized in the ninth century and bestowed the title of saint — Saint Nicholas. Eventually, the Feast of Saint Nicholas was celebrated on December 6, the anniversary of his passing. In the Netherlands, this celebration took major turns toward familiar Christmas customs.

The Dutch name for Saint Nicholas was Sinterklaas (sound familiar?). On the eve of December 6, Dutch children anticipated his arrival by setting straw-filled clogs outside to feed the donkeys who pulled his gift-laden wagon. When the kids awoke next morning, an exciting straw-for-gifts exchange awaited them. The Dutch Santa was tall, thin, wore a red cape over a bishop's garment, and donned a pointed hat.

With the 16th-century Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther strongly discouraged the veneration of saints to prevent cult-like followings. Clergy urged parents to give gifts on Christmas Eve instead of December 6 to align gift-giving with the celebration of Christ, the greatest gift of all. German parents were urged to teach their children that the Christ Child (Kris Kringle) was the gift-giver.

When Dutch settlers arrived in America in the 1660s, their Sinterklaas traditions accompanied them. In 1823, Clement Clark Moore tweaked a few of them in his “The Night Before Christmas” poem. His version of Santa Claus became the standard: a plump, jolly, short, grandfatherly, rosy-cheeked, red-garbed, nightcap-wearing, secular figure. (And let's face it, reindeer flying across the face of a full moon is a tad more enchanting than donkeys pulling a wagon.)

And of course in recent years the NORAD Santa tracker has added a modern touch to a centuries old tradition. ●

Holiday Shopping Can Be a Pain in the Parking Lot

According to the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers Association, roughly 40 percent of holiday car and pedestrian accidents occur in parking lots, compared to 20 percent the rest of the year.

Many collisions are a result of backing out of a parking space; there are blind spots galore. If you can back into a parking space, exiting will be a lot safer. (Pull-throughs are treasures!)

Settle for a parking space that's farther from the building. The dream, close-to-the-door space might mean driving the length of the lot several times or more ... increasing your risk of getting struck, or striking another trying to back out.

Keep your speed at around 10 mph (or less) in a crowded parking lot, and stay alert to your surroundings. Reduced speeds never give drivers a green light to text or fiddle with the GPS.

Some people are under the mistaken notion that since most stores/malls are on private property, the typical rules of the road and insurance regulations are out the window. That is not the case under NH law as they are open to the public so most all traffic laws still apply:

- Right-of-way rules are in full effect in parking lots. For instance, drivers in feeder lanes must yield to those in a main throughway. Drivers backing out of parking spots are generally liable in collisions.
- Insurance rules still apply, too. Report your accident to your insurance company. Exchange information with the other driver. If they refuse, take down their license number and other useful information. Immediately report the incident to the police, and ask for an incident report.
- The property owner may be on the hook if inadequate traffic control or poor parking lot design factored into your accident/injuries/losses.

If you are injured in a parking-lot accident due to someone's negligence, contact our office to protect your rights. ●



December 2021 Notable Dates

- Dec. 7**
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec. 9**
Christmas Card Day
- Dec. 10**
Nobel Prize Day
- Dec. 12**
Ding-a-Ling Day
- Dec. 21**
Winter Solstice
- Dec. 25**
Christmas
- Dec. 26**
Kwanzaa begins

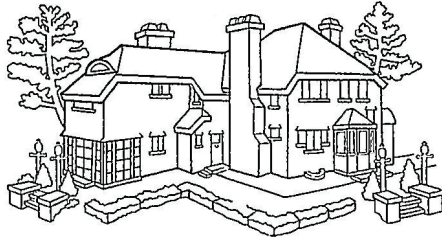
Welcome Attorney Snook

Seufert Law Offices has added a new attorney on staff, Christopher Snook. Attorney Snook joined us June 21st of this year as an Associate Attorney. He comes to us via New Jersey, North Dakota, Texas and then New Hampshire (he gets lost a lot).

Attorney Snook obtained his law degree at the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law, graduating as part of the Daniel Webster Scholar Honors Program. He has a B.S. and B.A. from Mayville State University where he also played football. He is admitted to the bar for the State of New Hampshire and the U.S. District Court of New Hampshire.

Chris had been an intern with us since 2019 so is very familiar with our approach to finding solutions for our clients. He is doing civil, workers compensation and personal injury cases. We all wish him great success here at Seufert Law and hope that you all say hello to him next time you are at the office. ●

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Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights



Over the Hog
Back We Go

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.

Pain and Suffering Takes Many Forms

In some situations, a person who has been injured by someone else's negligence or carelessness may be compensated for "pain and suffering." Pain and suffering refers to the physical and emotional/mental distress caused by their injury. It is a completely separate issue from compensation received for lost wages and/or a mountain of medical bills.

Pain and suffering covers not only physical injuries a victim has experienced to date, but what they will have to endure in the future — whether that spans weeks, months, years, or a lifetime. Chronic pain, future surgeries and invasive procedures, lengthy recovery periods, or lifelong disabilities may be in a person's future. Types of physical injuries that might warrant pain-and-suffering compensation include fractures, sprains, dislocations, headaches, internal organ damage, nerve damage, traumatic brain injuries, and spinal cord injuries, among others.

A victim can also be haunted emotionally/mentally by the incident and experience severe anxiety, flashbacks, and nightmares. The realization that their life might never return to its preinjury state may be difficult to accept. Clinical depression, sleep disturbances, anger, worry, and frustration can set in. Long-term counseling and other therapies may be necessary.

Severe scarring, disfigurement, and amputation can also produce emotional/mental trauma. A victim may be embarrassed by their disfigurement and withdraw socially. Having to undergo numerous painful procedures and seemingly endless therapy doesn't help matters.

Bottom line, negligence frequently causes long-lasting consequences for victims and impairs quality of life. Pain-and-suffering compensation won't make everything all right, but it can help. If you are injured by another party's negligent actions, contact our office. Our knowledgeable attorneys and staff will fight for you every step of the way. ●

