

Seufert Law Offices, PA

We'll Get You Through It



From the Captain's Log A Bag, a Boat, and a Block

So what does a bag, a boat, and a block have in common? No, this is not a knock-knock joke.

Ghetto mooring is the answer.

A few months back the harbor master says our name had finally come up on the waiting list to get a private mooring in Portsmouth Harbor. After a few calls to companies that will set private moorings the time and expense seemed a bit stiff –supply side inflation I suspect. Then a few more calls to contacts sourced chain, ball, granite block, and shackles to install one ourselves. Now how to ferry all this to the selected location in the harbor? Of course, a “salvage bag” that divers use to raise sunken boats, only this time to be used to “sink” something. A 6500 lb granite block was delivered to the marina and lowered by their lift to the bottom of the sea wall. A ladder was lowered from the top of the sea wall and the salvage bag was carried down to the water line, its lifting rings then shackled to the top of mooring block. The bag was then inflated at low tide from an air compressor sitting in the bed of a pickup parked dockside, once inflated we waited for the incoming tide to do Mother Nature’s work and lift the bag, and block, off the seabed, all while tied off to a skiff waiting to ferry it across the harbor to its final resting place. After a pry bar determined that the block was free of the seabed’s grip we motored away from the sea wall with a granite block swaying 6’ beneath, shifting the skiff precariously gunwale to opposite gunwale. Lumbering across the bay, trying to avoid the wake of passing boats that seemed perplexed at our operations, we delivered the mooring to its prescribed location. Then while Captain Chris, scuba gear



donned, kept ahold of the chain, the bag was slowly deflated, the 6500 lb granite block taking all down into the depths. After reaching the bottom the shackle holding the bag to the block was released, and bag and Captain rose to the surface.

Now I have done some crazy stuff in my life as a Captain, and this goes near the top, but who likes boring. ●

September 2022 News



Dog Bites and Psychological Harm



According to the CDC, roughly 800,000 dog bites in the U.S. each year require medical attention. Many bites involve familiar dogs and everyday activities. Over half of victims are children, who frequently suffer more psychological harm than physical harm.

Typically, adults and children cope differently with the aftermath of a dog bite. Adults tend to talk about the incident openly. Children often bury their feelings and avoid discussing the matter, sometimes leading to high levels of anxiety, fear, and possibly posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) — the onset of which may be months after the bite/attack.

PTSD symptoms include intrusive memories, avoidance, negative mood swings, irrational thoughts and fears, insomnia, and nightmares, to name a few. PTSD at a young age may cause neurological damage, as a child's nervous system development may be stunted. Children may also develop a persistent, excessive fear of dogs (cynophobia) or leaving the house (agoraphobia), diminishing their quality of life.

From a psychological/emotional perspective, it is more difficult for children to make sense of traumatic events than adults, and they lose a sense of security. A dog bite can change their personality, in some cases for a lifetime, without appropriate intervention. A young child is also smaller in size, so a dog bite/attack might feel even more overwhelming for them.

A young child's face is also closer to the bite zone. Permanent scarring and disfigurement can render a child more vulnerable to emotional distress, diminished self-confidence, and teasing and bullying.

Long after the physical pain of a dog bite eases, psychological impairment may persist, even more so for children than adults. If someone else's dog causes you or a family member physical and/or psychological harm, contact our office to protect your rights. •

When Hazing Crosses the Line



College can be an exciting time for students — charting their future paths, creating cherished memories, and forming lifelong relationships. Joining a fraternity or sorority may be part of the experience.

Some fraternities/sororities conduct hazing rituals to determine if new pledges have the “right stuff.” In some contexts, hazing rituals may be deemed merely silly, demeaning, or embarrassing. However, severe injuries and deaths spurred by hazing are, unfortunately, not rare.

According to StopHazing, an organization devoted to student safety, over half of college students involved in clubs, fraternities/sororities, and varsity sports teams experience hazing in some form. The most severe hazing practices include forced consumption of alcohol, drugs, food, or other substances; sleep deprivation; physical abuse; dangerous stunts; social isolation; performing sex acts; and committing crimes such as stealing or destroying property, among others.

Many hazing injuries go unreported. Frequently there is peer pressure on the victim to keep the true nature of what happened from being disclosed. Even when new pledges realize the inherent hazards of the rituals they will undertake, some cave to peer pressure, some do it to fit in and strengthen bonds, and others forge on due to personal pride (a “you can't break me” attitude).

Forty-four states, including NH, have laws prohibiting hazing, including 13 that make it a felony if death or serious injury is involved. Despite that, hazing incidents are still prevalent.

Hazing victims can seek compensation for injuries — even if they consented to participating in the activities involved — from individual fraternity members, the fraternity itself, the college, and/or owner of the premises where injuries occurred. Contact our office for a free consultation. •



September 2022 Notable Dates

Sept. 5
Labor Day

Sept. 11
Patriot Day

Sept. 14
Cream-Filled
Doughnut Day

Sept. 17
Apple Dumpling Day

Sept. 22
First day of autumn

Sept. 26
Rosh Hashanah

Sept. 27
Crush a
Can Day

Coming to an Agreement in an a Parenting Plan

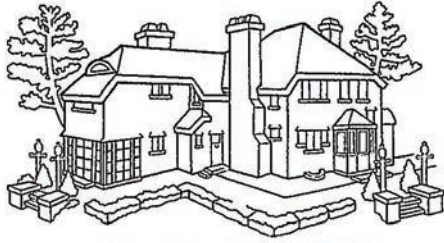
In order to formalize parenting time involving minor children, the parents must have a Parenting Plan signed by a judge. Contrary to what many people may think, parents sometimes come to an agreement on parenting time and then submit the Parenting Plan to the judge for approval without having to go to court. The parties often engage in these negotiations through their attorneys, a mediator, or both. The resulting Parenting Plan is more likely to be

Parenting Plans are arrived at more smoothly in circumstances in which the parents still have a degree of amicability and/or truly desire what is best for their child(ren). Although Parenting Plans can vary widely, they should all include determinations of:

- Residential Responsibility: where the child will live, shared responsibility is the legal starting point. In other words, the parents have equal parenting time.
- Decision Making: who will be in charge of making decisions affecting a child's upbringing, such as schooling, medical care, and religious practices. Most often the parents have joint decision making.
- Parenting Time: when the child(ren) will be with each parent.
- Holiday Schedules: with whom the child will spend major holidays, birthdays, vacations, and other special occasions.
- How disputes with and changes to the agreement will be dealt with.

Once a Parenting Plan is drawn up, it must be submitted to a judge for final approval. If it is agreed upon, very often the parents will not even need to attend a hearing. The judge will approve the Plan and mail the orders out to the parents. If there is a hearing, the judge will verify that both parties understand the agreement, voluntarily enter into the agreement and have the best interests of the child(ren) in mind. If satisfied, the judge will grant court approval. The agreement is then legally binding. If either party fails to abide by it, he/she will likely face legal consequences. ●

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Protect Your Family, Protect Your Rights



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What to Do if You are Pulled Over For DWI

If you are pulled over and an officer suspects that you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs you are likely to be asked a series of questions. The manner in which you respond to those questions may determine what steps the officer takes.

Typically the first thing you will be asked is if you know why the officer pulled you over. The officer asks the question in part to see if you will admit to certain behavior. Be polite and ask the officer why that question is being asked. Then wait for the officer to identify what led to the motor vehicle stop.

The officer will likely ask if you have had anything to drink or consumed any drugs. If you have not consumed alcohol or drugs tell that to the officer. If you have consumed any such substance you do not have to share that information. Tell the officer that you are not going to answer that question. You have the right not to answer questions posed by an officer other than questions related to your identification.

You have the right to remain silent. That silence is generally the best answer to give to almost every question an officer asks when that officer is conducting an investigation. ●