



## CHARLES D. HANKEY LAW OFFICE P.C.

WITH 80 YEARS OF COMBINED EXPERIENCE, BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE COURTROOM, THE LEGAL PROFESSIONALS OF THE CHARLES D. HANKEY LAW OFFICE CAN RESOLVE CASES INVOLVING:

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- BRAIN/HEAD INJURIES
- SPINAL INJURIES

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# Legal Insider



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## FROM THE DESK OF CHARLES D. HANKEY

### Disabled Americans Still Struggling to Find Work



Great progress has been made making public buildings, education, and services more accessible for Americans with disabilities. But, when it comes to finding work, little progress has been seen since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990.

Government data shows that just 5.2 million disabled Americans are employed. That's just 18 percent of the disabled population. Compare that with a 63 percent employment rate for those without a disability.

Even though the Americans with Disabilities Act was designed to give disabled people equal opportunities in employment, it did little to change long-standing prejudices among employers, according to the National Council on Disability, an independent federal agency that advises the president.

As the Council's chairman Jeff Rosen told Associated Press, "Employers are still catching on to the fact that the needs of most workers with disabilities aren't special, but employees with disabilities often bring specialized skills to the workplace."

The Obama administration has recently worked to expand the rights of disabled Americans with new rules for public schools and employers.

In fact, one bright spot for disabled workers has been federal government hiring. Nearly 15 percent of new hires in 2010 and 2011 (about 19,000) were people with disabilities. That's up from 10 percent in 2009. A 2010 executive order signed by the president aims to add 100,000 disabled people to the federal workforce by 2015.

The Labor Department is also considering a rule that would require companies with federal contracts to increase their disabled workforce to at least 7 percent. This could have a sizable impact

*(continued on page 2)*

## Let Your Voice Be Heard

*"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do."*

*— Hellen Keller, Author & Activist*

Your voice can help bring about change. And, your actions can make a lasting impact.

Whether it is contacting your legislator to demand equal job opportunities for those with disabilities (see story to the left) or it's volunteering your time at an animal shelter, you can make a real difference.

There are so many worthy causes. You should pick the ones that are most important to you.

One of our favorite groups is Bread. Their mission is to help bring about an end of hunger here in the U.S. and around the world. They urge lawmakers to change "policies, programs and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist."

Unfortunately, they have a lot of work to do. Each day, about 16,000 children worldwide die from hunger-related causes and more than 20 percent of U.S. children live in households that don't have enough to eat.

Visit [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) to learn more about Bread and the ways you can help, including writing to Congress, getting your church involved or forming a community group.

If you'd like to contact your legislator on this or another topic, you can find their contact information at [www.in.gov/apps/sos/legislator/search/](http://www.in.gov/apps/sos/legislator/search/).

The contents of this newsletter do not constitute legal advice. Every case is different and must be judged on its own merits. Past results afford no guarantee of future results.

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Legal Insider

## ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS FROM YOUR PAST EMPLOYER?

By Attorney Melissa Davidson



If you were terminated or quit your job before you had a chance to look into applying for your company's long term disability benefits, you may still be in luck! If your employer had a long term disability plan for its employees, you may still be able to apply. Most long term disability policies simply require that you become disabled while you are actively at work. This means that an application for benefits may still be filed after you separate from employment as long as you tell them that you became disabled before the separation.

Each long term disability policy is different. However, we are happy to help you get a late application filed and determine if you are eligible to apply. Often people are told by their supervisor or the human resources department that they are not eligible to apply for their short or long term disability benefits. This is frequently not true! Additionally, supervisors and the human resource department should not be making those decisions. Whether or not you qualify is determined by the insurance company that administers the policy, if the policy is insured.

If you separated from your job in the last two years and you know that you had a short or long term disability policy through your employer, feel free to call our office for a free consultation about those benefits.

## DIAL 2-1-1 CONNECT TO HELP



Connect2Help is a telephone and web service that connects Indiana residents who need human services with low-cost or free service providers.

By dialing 2-1-1 or visiting [www.referweb.net/c2h](http://www.referweb.net/c2h), low-income Hoosiers can get help with food and clothing, health care, housing and utilities, employment and cash assistance, mental health and counseling, government services, support groups, and more. Last year, more than 300,000 individuals used the service.

Operators are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## INDIANAPOLIS HEARING OFFICE

As of February 2013, the Indianapolis Office of Adjudication and Review (ODAR) has a 365 day processing time. What does this mean for your case? That means that once your hearing request is submitted to the Indianapolis ODAR, they will call to schedule the hearing in approximately one year.

If Indianapolis is not your hearing office, please contact your Hankey Law Office case administrator for the correct processing time.

## Struggling to Find Work... (continued from page 1)

because federal contractors currently employ about one-quarter of the nation's workforce.

Some business groups have complained the proposed rule would be too difficult and costly to administer. Disabled advocates, however, point to statistics that cost increases are minimal or non-existent. Instead, they say, companies benefit greatly from creating inclusive workplaces where people with disabilities work alongside those without disabilities. That, they say, just makes good business sense.

## UNINSURED CAN GET HELP PAYING FOR PRESCRIPTIONS

If you're uninsured but need help with prescriptions, try the RX Relief card. The RX relief card is a prescription discount card that offers up to 75% off on over 50,000 medications. It's completely free and is accepted at most nationwide pharmacies.

Please be aware that the card is only for those that are uninsured.

If you or someone you know is in need of a discount card, contact us at 317-554-5900 or via email at [mec@hankeylaw.com](mailto:mec@hankeylaw.com). We would be happy to mail them out!



## RECIPE: EASY STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE

### Ingredients:

- 1 large angel food cake
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 (14-ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 (12-ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 3 tablespoons strawberry gelatin
- 1 cup water
- 2 cups fresh strawberries, cut in 1/2 or 1/4 if large
- Whole fresh strawberries and mint leaves, for garnish



### Instructions:

Slice cake, using a serrated knife, horizontally into 3 equal layers. Mix together cream cheese, condensed milk, and whipped topping in a bowl for the custard. Set aside.

In a medium saucepan, stir together sugar, cornstarch, and gelatin to make the glaze. Add water. Cook while stirring over medium heat until thick. Allow to cool completely. Fold in strawberries.

To assemble, place 1 layer of cake in a large clear bowl. Top with a layer of glaze, followed by a layer of custard mixture. Repeat layering in this order for remaining cake, glaze and custard. Top cake with whole fresh strawberries and fresh mint leaves.

## SPRINGTIME IN INDIANA LET'S GET OUT AND ENJOY IT!

Spring is finally here and with it, dozens of events to get you out of the house. A great resource is Indiana's Tourism website at [www.in.gov/visitindiana/](http://www.in.gov/visitindiana/).

Here are just a few ideas from the site. Each outings is handicapped-accessible in case you or a family member has mobility challenges:

### Butterfly Exhibit at the Botanical Conservatory in Fort Wayne (April 13 – July 7)

The butterfly exhibit is back with an African beat! Thousands of brilliant butterflies from around the world, including West Africa, will mesmerize visitors in the display tent. African music and folktales will add to the experience. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, free for children 2 and under. Nearby parking is available for a small fee.

### The Legend of Abraham Lincoln at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis (Now – August 4)

When unpredictable spring showers pop up, plan to stay dry at the Indiana State Museum. Their exhibit on Abraham Lincoln will explore the 16th American President's early life, family bonds, accomplishments and failures. Priceless artifacts from his life will be on display. Admission is \$9.50 for adults and \$5 for children. There is a charge for parking.

### Second Friday Movie Series on the Courthouse Square in Greensburg, IN (The second Friday of each month, May through October)

Enjoy an evening with the stars under the stars. Relax with your family, friends, and a blanket while watching a movie on the lawn. Movie will begin at dusk. Admission is free.

### Spring Mill State Park Plant and Seed Exchange at Spring Mill State Park in East Mitchell (May 12)

Have a green thumb and love trying your gardening skills out on new plants? You can bring some of your seeds and plants to exchange with others at the Pioneer Village. Admission to the State Park is \$5 per vehicle.



### Civil War Days at Connor Prairie in Fishers (May 18 and 19)

Re-enactors bring the Civil War battles to life again and you can witness it all. Learn what the Civil War was about from both Union and Confederate soldiers. A battle reenactment will take place each day. Guests can see telegraph equipment used to send messages during the war, fashions from the Civil War and what life was like at camp. Past and present military personnel receive free admission. Admission for other adults is \$15 each with children admission for \$10.

### 2013 Friday Night Summer Band Concerts in Corydon (Every Friday evening from Memorial Day to Labor Day)

Enjoy live music on the memorial bandstand in the historic downtown Corydon. Food is available for purchase beginning at 6:00pm and music begins at 7:30pm. Admission is free.

## CLIP & SAVE: Helpful Contacts

### Charles D. Hankey Law Office P.C.

Lockerbie Square, 434 East New York Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202  
Office: 317-634-8565 | Toll Free: 800-520-3633 | Fax: 317-634-9818  
[www.hankeylaw.com](http://www.hankeylaw.com)

### Contact us if:

- You moved to a new address or changed your phone number
- You received a denial letter
- You went to see a new doctor
- You have been admitted to the hospital
- Your doctor has diagnosed you with a new medical condition
- You had a new test/MRI/X-ray

### Additional Resources

Information Referral Network – 317-926-HELP

Crisis Line – 317-251-7575

Center Township Trustees (can assist with rent, utilities, takes applications for Food Stamps, TANF, and Medicaid)  
863 Massachusetts Avenue – 317-633-3610

**Healthy Indiana Plan:** low cost insurance for Indiana Families – 877-438-4479 | [www.hip.in.gov](http://www.hip.in.gov)

**RX for Indiana:** assistance with prescription drug cost – 877-793-0765 | [www.rxforindiana.org](http://www.rxforindiana.org)

**Advantage Program:** health care program for uninsured, low-income Marion County residents – 317-221-2000 | [www.hhcorp.org/adv.htm](http://www.hhcorp.org/adv.htm)

**Div. of Disability & Rehabilitative Services (DDRS)** – 800-545-7763  
[www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/4938.htm](http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/4938.htm)

**Damien Center:** help for those afflicted by HIV/AIDS – 317-632-0123 | 800-213-1163 | [www.damien.org](http://www.damien.org)

**Indiana Free Clinic Information:** low cost or free health care for low-income or uninsured – [www.freeclinicdirectory.org/indiana\\_care.html](http://www.freeclinicdirectory.org/indiana_care.html)

### Housing Help:

Indianapolis Resource Center for Independent Living – 317-926-1660  
Colonial Park (chronic homeless program) – 317-353-6784  
Indianapolis Public Housing Agency (section 8) – 317-261-7200  
Barton Center (sleeping rooms - \$278, 2 bedrooms \$500-613) – 317-423-2575

You can apply for Social Security disability benefits by calling 1-800-772-1213, online at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov), or in person at your local office

### Indianapolis Area Local Social Security Office Addresses\*:

**West Side:** 6745 Network Place – 866-218-2309

**Downtown:** 575 N. Pennsylvania, Suite 685 – 866-931-7057

**East Side:** 5515 N. Post Rd. – 866-220-7899

\*If you live outside of the Indianapolis area, please ask a Case Administrator for the address and phone number to your local social security office.

