



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:

- PERSONAL INJURY
- CAR ACCIDENTS
- TRUCK ACCIDENTS
- MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS
- BICYCLE ACCIDENTS
- RAILROAD CROSSING/
TRAIN ACCIDENTS
- AIRPLANE ACCIDENTS
- HIGHWAY DEFECTS
- WORKERS' COMPENSATION
- PREMISES LIABILITY
- PRODUCT LIABILITY
- BRAIN/HEAD INJURIES
- SPINAL INJURIES
- DOG BITES/ANIMAL ATTACKS
- CHILD INJURIES
- CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENTS
- BURN INJURIES
- DROWNING

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: LISSA ROEMER

I have been working as a case administrator for the Charles D. Hankey Law office since November of 2011. I graduated from Indiana University in 2006 with a degree in psychology and have worked as an advocate for the disabled for the last four years in both private practices and at the State of Indiana. I am originally from Bloomington, IN and have recently moved to Indianapolis. I enjoy the outdoors, animals, and spending time with my family and friends.



Experience. Compassion. Justice.

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Legal Insider



FROM THE DESK OF CHARLES D. HANKEY

SYMPTOM DIARIES: KEEP TRACK OF YOUR ILLNESS

When it is time for you to testify at your hearing, the judge will ask you specific questions about how often various symptoms occur. We have found that clients often have a difficult time with these questions. When asked how many seizures one has in a typical month, for example, a client might say, "Oh, I don't know. It varies." This is not a useful answer. Most people, however, have not kept track of how often they have seizures, headaches, abdominal pain, diarrhea, or whatever symptoms they experience.

It is very important, especially during the long wait that often happens before a hearing, to keep track of such things. Keeping a symptom diary where you record how often you experience your symptoms and how severe they are is a good use of that time. It helps to supplement the medical records and strengthen your testimony when you get before the judge. Also, if you show your symptom diary to your doctor, it can help your doctor give you the most effective treatment possible.

We have some forms for specific symptoms/illnesses. If your illness is on this list, please contact us and have us send you one of these symptom diary forms. If your illness is not on this list, it can still be helpful for you to keep track of your symptoms and how often they occur. Even marking them on a simple household calendar can help.

Contact us for symptom diaries specific to:

- Hepatitis
- Fatigue
- Nebulizer Treatments
- Low Back Symptoms
- Hypoglycemic Events
- Sleep
- Headache Symptoms
- Syncope
- Asthma
- Fever
- Seizure

PHONE PROGRAM IS LIFELINE FOR DISABLED AND UNEMPLOYED

By The Editor

Phone service is vital in today's world. In case of serious illnesses, it can literally save your life. It means being able to call 9-1-1 in an emergency; being able to make, cancel and reschedule appointments; being able to get the results of medical tests; being able to maintain communication with family and friends who you can call for help in a situation; being able to apply for assistance; and maintain contact with social workers and attorneys.

It is incredibly frustrating for us when we see clients lose their cases because we are unable to get in touch with them when it's time for a hearing. This happens more often than you might think. The long wait for disability when one is unable to work and without income takes its toll on a person, and their phones are often shut off.



There is a program that can help, though. The federal government program called Lifeline provides a discount on one basic monthly phone service (either landline or cellular) per qualifying low-income family. These discounts are usually about \$10 a month. There is also a one time \$30 discount to cover set-up fees.

You may qualify for this program if you are on any of these assistance programs:

- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

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

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Legal Insider

SOCIAL SECURITY COST OF LIVING INCREASE

You may have noticed an increase in Social Security and Supplemental Security Income monthly payments since the beginning of the year. If you receive monthly Social Security or SSI payments, you received a 3.6 percent cost-of-living adjustment beginning with your payment for January. This is the first cost of living increase (or COLA) in 3 years.

For those receiving Social Security retirement benefits, you may also now earn more income without offsetting your benefits because the "earnings test" numbers have gone up. You can learn more about the earnings test by visiting www.socialsecurity.gov, and searching on the topic "earnings test."

Find out your full retirement age at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/ageincrease.htm. You should also read, "How Work Affects Your Benefits" at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10069.html.

COURTS HELP THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES



By Melissa A. Davidson

The Administrative Law Judges at the Social Security Administration are more likely to award benefits to those who have done what they can to try to help themselves. Therefore, I would like to make a few suggestions to those of you who may have a hearing in the future.

First, if you are struggling with drugs and/or alcohol, it is imperative that you seek help. The Social Security Administration does not pay benefits for drug or alcohol addiction. They will also not pay benefits if they feel that you would be able to work if you stopped using drugs or alcohol. Drugs and alcohol can cause mental health conditions to be worsened. Judges have a very hard time trying to determine how well a person can function when they consistently use drugs or alcohol. It is easier for the judge to consider paying a claim if the person has a long period of being clean and sober. This way the judge can see whether functioning improves.

A second way to improve your chances of winning is to work with a place like Vocational Rehabilitation to help you try to find a job. Vocational Rehabilitation helps people with disabilities find employment. This means that they talk with you about your disabilities, may gather medical records, or even send you for testing. They can provide a job coach to come to your job and help you learn the procedures. They can even help obtain special chairs, computer programs or other devices to help you return to work.

If Vocational Rehab finds a job you can do, then you should let us know. You may still qualify for Social Security disability. If Vocational Rehab cannot find you employment, they will provide you with a letter stating they were unable to help you. This is great evidence for your case. It shows that you were willing to do whatever you could to return to the workforce, but were not able. Either outcome is beneficial to you!

DEFECTIVE MEDICAL DEVICES & PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS



By Attorney Ashley Marks

Darvon and Darvocet were sold to treat mild to moderate pain. Yet recent side effects of Darvon and Darvocet have been the subject of lawsuits. Severe side effects implicated in these lawsuits include: arrhythmia, bradycardia, tachycardia, and cardiac/respiratory arrest. If you or a loved one experienced side effects you think were linked to use of Darvon or Darvocet, you may be entitled to compensation for your pain and suffering. We urge you to contact one of our lawyers today for a free consultation.

If you take **Plavix**, you should be aware that it can cause serious bleeding, especially cerebral and gastrointestinal bleeding, in addition to Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP). If you took Plavix and suffered from cerebral bleeding, gastrointestinal bleeding, or hemorrhaging, you may be entitled to receive compensation. We urge you to contact one of our lawyers today to protect your legal rights.

CooperVision Avaira Toric contact lens users that have suffered a torn cornea, excruciating eye pain, or other serious vision problems may be the victims of defective contacts. CooperVision quietly recalled some lenses in the U.S. because of an unidentified "residue." However, consumers were never publicly warned. If you suffered a torn cornea, serious impaired vision, or excruciating pain after using these contact lenses, it is vital that you call our office today to protect your legal rights.

RECIPE: BREAD PUDDING

By: Lissa Roemer

Ingredients:

- 1 loaf French bread, at least a day old, cut into 1-inch squares (about 6-7 cups)
- 1 qt milk
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 Tbsp vanilla
- 1 cup raisins
- 1/4 teaspoon allspice
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3 Tbsp unsalted butter, melted



Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Soak the bread in milk in a large mixing bowl. Press with hands until well mixed and all the milk is absorbed. In a separate bowl, beat eggs, sugar, vanilla, and spices together. Gently stir into the bread mixture. Gently stir the raisins into the mixture.
3. Pour butter into the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking pan. Coat the bottom and the sides of the pan well with the butter. Pour in the bread mix and bake at 350°F for 35-45 minutes, until set. The pudding is done when the edges start getting a bit brown and pull away from the edge of the pan. Can also make in individual ramekins.

NEW CASE ADMINISTRATORS

Due to some staff changes in our office, your case administrator may have changed. Below is the new Case Administrator list. Find the last two digits of your Social Security Number in the left column. The name of your case administrator is in the middle column, and their extension is in the right column.

Last 2 of SS#	Case Administrator Name	Extension
00-07	Temporary	see below**
08-24	Sharon	226
25-31	Lissa	225
32-41	Temporary	see below**
42-68	Anna	222
69-71	Kyle	240
72-83	Martha	229
84-91	Jennifer	249
92-99	Temporary	see below**

If the last two digits of your SSN fall in one of the temporary ranges, use the chart below to figure out who your temporary case administrator is.

Last 2 of SS#	Temp Case Admin. Name	Extension
00-04	Sharon	226
05-07, 32	Lissa	225
33-37	Anna	222
38-41	Kyle	240
92-95	Martha	229
96-99	Jennifer	249

Remember that your case administrator can answer any questions you have about your case, and you can give them any information you need to give our office.



FIND HANKEY LAW
ON FACEBOOK

PHONE PROGRAM *(continued from page 1)*

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- The National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program

You also may qualify if your income is less than 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. (\$15,080 for an individual, \$20,426 for a couple, \$25,772 for a family of three, and \$31,118 for a family of four.)

Get applications from your local phone companies or online at http://www.in.gov/oucc/files/IURC_APP.TXT

If you are in a situation where you cannot afford phone service, this program is worth looking into. While your case is pending, please keep us informed of phone number or contact information changes. We need to be able to contact you while we work on your case.

CLIP & SAVE: Helpful Contacts

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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

RX for Indiana: assistance with prescription drug cost – 877-793-0765 | www.rxforIndiana.org

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

Voc. Rehab. Services: 317-254-6707 | 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

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, or in person at your local office

Indianapolis Area Local Social Security Office Addresses*:

West Side: 4279 N. Lafayette Rd. – 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.

With heartfelt thanks for your referrals!

Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to relatives, friends, and neighbors. Thank you!

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”

–Anne Bradstreet