

Legal Insider



FROM THE DESK OF CHARLES D. HANKEY

The Hankey Law Office Walks to Help End Epilepsy

Our office was happy to participate in the 2014 Walk/Run to End Epilepsy at Ft. Harrison Park in Indianapolis on June 21.

Thankfully, the weather was perfect for this year's event and the turnout was great. The annual walk, which started in Indianapolis in 2008, has grown each year and has expanded to include walks in other areas of the state. For 2014, a timed run was also added, along with face painting and other family-friendly activities.

Event organizers hope the annual events increase awareness about epilepsy, raise money to fund research for a cure, and allow those affected by epilepsy to rally together.

This year's participants included those living with seizures and their caregivers, doctors, nurses and other health care professionals as well as government leaders, Epilepsy Foundation staff and volunteers, corporate teams like ours, and members of the general public that joined the fight to end epilepsy.



Epilepsy is a neurological condition that affects the nervous system and is known to cause seizures. Those seizures are caused by disturbances in the electrical activity of the brain and may be related to a brain injury or genetics, but often the cause is unknown. About 65 million people worldwide and 2 million Americans have epilepsy. About 1 in 26 people in the U.S. will develop epilepsy at some point in their life. One-third of those live with uncontrollable seizures because no current treatment works for them.

For more information or to get involved, visit the Epilepsy Foundation of Indiana's website at indianaepilepsyfoundation.org.

BICYCLE SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION

By Attorney Melissa Davidson



With Indianapolis increasing the bicycle lanes and trails each year, drivers and riders must both be aware of the rules of the road. Bicycles on the roadway have the same rights and responsibilities as any other vehicle on the road. This means that bicyclists must obey traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.

They must ride in the same direction as other traffic. They can increase their visibility by wearing brightly colored clothing and helmets. Bicyclists must also use lights and reflectors if on the road after dusk or before dawn.

Problems arise when bicyclists ride on sidewalks rather than the roadway. Many feel safer on the sidewalk, but this actually causes them to be less visible to drivers. A driver turning right on red may not have time

to stop if a bicycle shoots into the crosswalk. I've seen cyclists nearly hit downtown riding on the cross walk assuming since the walk light was lit that they are safe to fly across the street. I've



also seen cyclists use the bike lane to go in both directions. The bicycle lane should only be used for the same direction as other traffic.

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Bicycle Safety... *(continued from page 1)*

Drivers need to remember to look for cyclists before turning left or right, opening a door, pulling out of a parking space, and not pass a cyclist unless they can be given 3 feet of space when doing so. It is important to remember that many cyclists do not know the laws and may do the unexpected. They may change lanes without signaling, move from the road to the sidewalk, or vice versa, and may pass a car when traffic is slow. Defensive driving is the best practice when a bicycle is in the area.

If you are in an accident involving a bicycle, you may need an attorney to assist in sorting out who is at fault and how much compensation is appropriate. The attorneys at the Hankey Law Office are experienced and knowledgeable with bicycle accidents and injuries.

QUICK TIPS FOR TALKING TO YOUR DOCTOR

By Attorney Sondra Burger



The way you talk to your doctor may be as important as anything you say. To make the most of your appointment, follow these expert recommended tips for better doctor-patient communication.

1. Always be on time for your appointment. Doctors schedule about 10-15 minutes per patient. If you're late, your face time with the doctor decreases dramatically.
2. Make a list of your concerns and questions. Tell the doctor to put the list in your file for future reference, but also keep a copy for yourself. You won't forget what you wanted to discuss and it helps the doctor better understand your concerns and conditions. This leads to better medical care for you.
3. Be detailed and specific. If you have stomach pain, be ready to pinpoint where it is, how severe it is on a scale of 1-10, how often it happens and what makes it better or worse.
4. Insist on understanding. Don't be afraid to interrupt and say you don't understand what the doctor is telling you. Ask him to explain in everyday terms.
5. Take notes or bring a friend to take notes for you to record the events of your appointment.
6. Ask the doctor to write down his instructions so you don't forget about your medication regime or treatment recommendations.
7. Take information home with you. A brochure, written instructions or other educational material helps you remember your recommended treatments.
8. Do say THANK YOU from time to time.

Remember, your relationship with your doctor works two ways. So take an active role in your health care to get the best possible care from your doctor.

THE HANKEY PUZZLER: FUN IN THE SUMMER SUN QUIZ

This issue's puzzler raises a glass of iced tea to summer and puts you in the hot seat. See how well you know the season by taking our quiz. The answers are at the bottom of the quiz. No peeking!

1. What three fresh fruits outsell all others during the summer?
a. grapes, blueberries and peaches
b. peaches, watermelon and tomatoes
c. tomatoes, watermelons and lemons
d. blackberries, blueberries and coconuts
2. Which "summer" smell is most often found to stimulate pleasant memories in human beings?
a. coconut
b. cut grass
c. chlorine
d. burning charcoal
3. In the U.S. what is the most popular selling grilling meat throughout the summer?
a. hamburgers
b. hotdogs
c. chicken
d. vegan patties
4. Who invented and wore the first pair of sun glasses?
a. Africans
b. The Chinese
c. Europeans
d. Hollywood celebrities
5. When did the first U.S. ice cream parlor open in New York City?
a. 1776
b. 1845
c. 1881
d. 1900
6. How many licks it takes to finish a single scoop ice cream cone?
a. 100
b. 75
c. 50
d. 10

Answers: 1 - B; 2 - B; 3 - B; 4 - C; 5 - A; 6 - C

RECIPE: Cucumber Salad

Ingredients:

4 cucumbers, thinly sliced
1 small white onion, thinly sliced
1 cup white vinegar
1/2 cup water
3/4 cup white sugar
1 tablespoon dried dill



Instructions:

Toss together the cucumbers and onion in a large bowl. Combine the vinegar, water and sugar in a saucepan over medium-high heat. Bring to a boil, and pour over the cucumber and onions. Stir in dill, cover, and refrigerate until cold.

This can also be eaten at room temperature, but be sure to allow the cucumbers to marinate for at least 1 hour.

CONSIDERATIONS WHEN HIRING A SOCIAL SECURITY ATTORNEY

By Attorney Stacy J. Crider

When speaking with new clients, I often hear about bad experiences with previous representation in social security disability cases. Some of the same complaints come up over and over again and I would like to go over a few questions you can ask when you are deciding who will best represent you in your disability claim.

1. Will an attorney be representing me?

This seems like a very obvious question, but unfortunately, it is so obvious some people never ask it. Some people get to their hearing and learn that the person who is representing them at the hearing is not an attorney. The office they have hired has instead sent a “representative” to the hearing. Since social security hearings are administrative, your counsel doesn’t have to be an attorney, but they get paid the same as an attorney, only the “representative” lacks the credentials, certification and education an attorney must get in order to carry the title of “attorney”.

2. How long have you been practicing Social Security Disability law?

I find that some people hire attorneys who only do disability cases on the side or perhaps just started doing these cases and become upset by the lack of knowledge and effective representation they received from these attorneys. With experience comes specialized knowledge about the process, the people involved, and what is needed to have the best chances at a successful outcome. For example, our office has been practicing Social Security Disability cases for over 30 years.

3. What happens if the judge denies me? Will you appeal?

This is the most common complaint that I hear. A large number of attorneys out there will represent you until you are denied by the Administrative Law Judge. Then, they will send you a letter letting you know that you are able to appeal that decision, but their office does not do such appeals and they will advise you to seek new representation. Now you have a decision that must be appealed within 60 days and you must find a new attorney to do this appeal. Make sure the attorney you hire to represent you is capable of doing all levels of appeal not just the Administrative Law Judge hearing.

4. Will I meet or speak to my attorney before the date of the hearing?

More and more, I am hearing of people who talk to their attorney for the first time right before their hearing and then are unsatisfied with the representation that they receive during the hearing. It is imperative that you have a meeting prior to your hearing date, preferably in person, but if that is not possible then at the least a phone conference. This meeting is important because it gives you and your attorney a chance to speak freely about the evidence in your case, go over your testimony, and answer any questions you have. At our office, we schedule a “hearing preparation” meeting at least one month before the hearing date. If your attorney refuses to meet with you before the day of the hearing, you should reconsider who is representing you so your case gets the time and attention it deserves.

If you or someone you know needs representation in their disability case, please call the Hankey Law Office.

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

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

Div. of Disability & Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) – 800-545-7763
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

Indiana Free Clinic Information: low cost or free health care for low-income or uninsured – 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, 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.



“Some of the best memories are made in flip flops.”

– Kellie Elmore



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
- WAGE & HOUR
- BRAIN/HEAD INJURIES
- CAR ACCIDENTS
- EMPLOYMENT LAW
- SPINAL INJURIES
- TRUCK ACCIDENTS
- LONG TERM DISABILITY
- DOG BITES/ANIMAL ATTACKS
- MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENTS
- SHORT TERM DISABILITY
- CHILD INJURIES
- BICYCLE ACCIDENTS
- WORKERS' COMPENSATION
- CONSTRUCTION ACCIDENTS
- RAILROAD CROSSING/
TRAIN ACCIDENTS
- PREMISES LIABILITY
- BURN INJURIES
- PRODUCT LIABILITY
- DROWNING

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Lynne

Meet Lynne! Lynne Strykowski is a new case administrator for the Hankey Law Office. She has 10 years of experience as a bankruptcy paralegal and is already proving to be an excellent member of our team! Lynne was born and raised on the Southside of Indianapolis. She went to Center Grove High School and Ball State University. She has been married for 14 years and has a son and a daughter. She and her husband are very involved in their children's activities and are also active members at their local church. In her free time, Lynne enjoys reading, traveling and watching sports. "Go Cubbies!"

Fast 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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