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The Perils of Recorded Statements

If you are the innocent victim in an auto accident in a fault (or “tort”) state, the other party’s insurance company will be calling, requesting that you give a statement and likely wanting to record it. *Never agree to either without the guidance of an auto accident attorney.*

An insurance adjuster’s allegiance is to their company, not you. They’re looking to deny claims, minimize compensation payouts, and/or shift blame.

You are under no legal obligation to give a statement, recorded or otherwise. And there’s no upside to doing so. (An adjuster might dangle the carrot of receiving quicker payment ... likely at an amount far below your case’s value.) Here’s how recorded statements can harm claims:

- They can be compared with other statements a person makes, such as those with an investigating police officer or during a lawsuit deposition. Multiple statements made weeks or months apart may show inconsistencies (which isn’t unusual). The opposition will seek to exploit that.
- Adjusters are well-versed in asking questions that trap or trick you into responses that weaken your claim.
- An adjuster may ask a claimant how they’re feeling. A claimant who answers that question may come to regret it, as some injuries don’t become evident until days, even weeks, later. And once a recorded statement is taken, there are no do-overs.

On a side note, in no-fault states, auto accident claims are filed with a person’s own insurance company, regardless of who’s at fault. You may be required to give a recorded statement as a condition of your insurance coverage.

If you are injured in an auto accident, contact an auto accident attorney to protect your interests. •



Garden Egg Salad

A good, quick recipe for a meatless dish. It's great for a warm summer day, too!

INGREDIENTS

- 6 large eggs
- 1/2 c. low-fat mayonnaise
- 2 Tbsp. whole-grain mustard
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 scallions (white and green), thinly sliced
- 1 rib celery, minced (about 1/2 c.)
- 2 radishes, grated with large holes of a grater
- 8 romaine lettuce leaves
- 1 c. pea or other sprouts

PREPARATION

- Place eggs in a saucepan with enough cold water to cover. Bring to a boil, cover, and remove from heat. Set aside for 12 minutes.
- Drain the eggs and roll them between the palm and counter to crack the shell, then peel under cool running water (it's the best way).
- Dice the eggs, then combine them with mayonnaise and mustard. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in scallions, celery, and radish.
- Divide the egg salad evenly among the lettuce leaves. Top with sprouts and roll up. About 2 rolls will be a typical serving. •



A Stinging Rebuke



During outdoor summertime activities, humans may cross paths with bees, wasps, or hornets. As many can attest, they sting when threatened. The human body reacts to the venom in various ways. It's important to know the difference between a "normal" reaction and an allergic reaction.

All stings produce pain, swelling, redness, and itchiness. For those who are not allergic to bee stings, symptoms will remain at the site of the sting and typically clear up within a few hours. (A sting in the mouth or eye warrants immediate medical attention.) For some people, symptoms may linger for a few days, but they should not worsen. If redness or swelling covers an area several inches wide or more, play it safe by giving your doctor a call.

Anaphylaxis is a severe reaction to a bee sting and can be life-threatening. Additional sting symptoms may appear anytime within roughly two hours of the sting and occur away from the sting site. They include respiratory difficulty, trouble swallowing, and hives and/or swelling. **Seek medical help immediately.**

Remove a bee's stinger with the edge of a credit card or fingernail. Don't use tweezers or fingers, which can squeeze out more venom. A thorough washing, ice, over-the-counter pain reliever, cortisone cream, and/or Benadryl® may help relieve "normal" symptoms. Avoid scratching the sting site.

A person can develop a bee-sting allergy at any time in their life. They may have been stung 20 times previously without a problem, but there's no guarantee the 21st time will go as smoothly.

If you receive multiple stings, the sheer quantity of venom could cause a severe reaction. It's best to seek medical attention right away. •

Those June Weddings

June has garnered the reputation of most popular wedding month in Western culture—for varied reasons.

In early Roman times, citizens held a festival in honor of the deity Juno, the goddess of marriage and childbirth. As you may have guessed, the month of June was named in her honor. A June wedding was considered auspicious.

May was also the month of “unhappy dead.” Not exactly a ringing endorsement of May weddings. Many nuptials were pushed to June instead.

On the Celtic calendar, the first moon after June’s summer solstice is called the strawberry moon. It also goes by “honey moon” due to its amber hue. A June wedding followed by a honey moon ... sound familiar?

Over the centuries, June was also a month in which flowers would be in plentiful supply—a wedding prerequisite. Although vibrant and beautiful, their original purpose was to mask the unpleasant body odor of those whose bathing schedules weren’t exactly full.



In more practical terms, especially in precontraceptive days, a June wedding would often lead to a spring childbirth, bolstering a newborn’s chances of survival after a long, lean winter. A spring birth also afforded recovery time for the mother to be ready for the busy autumn harvest season.

These days, June is a good month for weddings since it’s warm, but not too warm; there’s more daylight; and school schedules are not a concern for travelers.

Although still ranking high, June’s wedding popularity has been surpassed in recent years by October and September. But that’s OK. When it comes to history, those months have a lot of catching up to do. •



June 2019 Notable Dates

June 1 – National Bubbly Day

June 5 – National Running Day

June 8 – National Upsy Daisy Day

June 13 – National Kitchen Klutzes of America Day

June 17 – National Eat Your Vegetables Day

June 21 – Go Skateboarding Day

June 23 – National Pink Day

June 27 – National Sunglasses Day



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Trampoline Park Injuries Increasing by Leaps and Bounds

The popularity of trampoline parks has soared in recent years. In 2011, there were an estimated 40 parks nationwide; today, there are over 800. That surge has placed a spotlight on trampoline park injuries, which range from minor sprains and strains, to fractures, dislocations, traumatic brain injuries, and spinal cord damage. The American Academy of Pediatrics reported that trampoline park incidents resulted in nearly 7,000 ER visits in 2014—and have surely risen since.

Three-quarters of injuries involve two or more individuals on a trampoline at the same time. Collisions, bad landings, falling or jumping off the trampoline, or landing on springs and frames precipitate most injuries. *According to the Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics*, over one-third of injuries involve broken bones.

The trampoline park industry is largely unregulated, which is highly concerning, but premises liability law does require that trampoline parks take reasonable measures to keep patrons safe. That includes repairing and properly maintaining trampolines, blocking off unsafe areas, displaying usage rules near the trampolines, and posting trained attendants to enforce the rules.

Trampoline park visitors are required to sign liability waivers, which seemingly absolve the park of any responsibility for accidents and injuries. That may generally be the case for common, minor injuries (e.g., sprains and strains), but if a park is found negligent, a person sustaining a serious injury generally has the green light to seek compensation. In addition, some states have ruled that minors cannot sign away their rights, even if a parent signed the waiver.

If you or a loved one is injured at a trampoline park, contact a premises liability attorney to protect your rights. ●

