SOCIAL MEDIA ALERT!

Keep Your Case Private & Off Social Media

Did You Know?
While many people use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube and LinkedIn for things like keeping up with the family and friends or leisurely entertainment, many are unaware that these social media forms have become ammunition for insurance companies, investigators and defense attorneys to poke holes in your case!

How To Protect Yourself:
Change your profile’s security settings to “private” and do not post anything (words, pictures, videos) which could later be used against you to dispute the severity of your injuries or call into question your motives for pursuing a personal injury claim. Even after you change your security settings, be mindful of what you post to the internet for others to read and watch. As a good rule of thumb, do not post anything on the internet that you do not want to show up in court!
LAURA CARPEY’S RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Southern ‘One-Cup’ Peach Cobbler

INGREDIENTS
- 1 1/2 lb. peaches, pitted, cut into 1/2”-thick wedges
- 2 tsp. finely grated lemon zest
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup sugar, divided
- 3/4 tsp. kosher salt, divided
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- Vanilla ice cream or whipped cream (for serving; optional)

INSTRUCTIONS
1. Toss peaches, lemon zest, lemon juice, 1/4 cup sugar, and 1/4 tsp. salt in a large bowl. Let sit, stirring occasionally, until saucy, about 15 minutes.
2. Preheat oven to 350°F. Place butter in a 13x9” glass or ceramic baking dish and heat in oven until melted, 8–10 minutes. Remove pan from oven.
3. Meanwhile, whisk flour, baking powder, and remaining 3/4 cup sugar and 1/2 tsp. salt in another large bowl. Add milk and vanilla and whisk until batter is smooth with no lumps. Pour evenly over melted butter in baking dish (do not mix). Spoon fruit mixture and 3 Tbsp. of the accumulated juices evenly over batter.
4. Bake cobbler, rotating pan halfway through, until batter is puffed and lightly golden across the surface and browned around the edges, 40–45 minutes. Let cool 10 minutes.
5. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream if desired.

Tips For Taking Classes Online This Semester

As a result of COVID-19, many college students will be taking classes online this semester. For some students, it may be a challenge to adjust to the online learning environment. Here are some tips to help you stay focused:

1. Treat an online course like a “real” course. The easiest way to ensure follow through is to remember that you are paying to take this online course, just as you would for a traditional, in-person class.

2. Hold yourself accountable. Set goals at the beginning of the semester and check in with yourself weekly.

3. Practice time management. Look at the syllabus at the start of the semester and make note of major assignments. Mark them on a calendar you check regularly so you know what workload is coming in the weeks ahead.

4. Create a regular study space and stay organized. Set up a dedicated learning environment for studying.

5. Eliminate distractions. Regardless of where you choose to work, consider turning your cell phone off to avoid losing focus every time a text message or notification pops up.

6. Figure out how you learn best. Study during the time of day you are most focused and pay attention to how you are studying. Are you a visual learner? An audio learner?

7. Actively participate. Participate in the course’s online forum to help you better understand course materials and engage with fellow classmates.

8. Leverage your network. Online classes may sometimes make you feel like you are learning on your own, but this couldn’t be further from the truth. Most online courses are built around the concept of collaboration, with professors and instructors actively encouraging that students work together to complete assignments and discuss lessons. Build relationships with other students by introducing yourself and engaging in online discussion boards. Your peers can be a valuable resource when preparing for exams or asking for feedback on assignments. Don’t be afraid to turn to them to create a virtual study group. Chances are good that they will appreciate it just as much as you will.

REMINDER ABOUT OUR FIRM’S COMMUNICATION POLICY

About us: We perform very high quality legal work. We are highly competent and we have a highly competent support staff, but we are not perfect. We can make mistakes. We will correct a mistake if we find it or if you point it out. It is our policy to return phone calls in the order they are received and based on the priority of the situation. If you leave a message, your call will be returned usually within 24 hours. Some clients feel that calling multiple times in a day will get their call answered faster, but that is not the case. Email is the quickest way to get a response from anyone in the office. We work by appointment only. Without an appointment, it is unlikely Mr. Carpey would be able to meet with you.

Please utilize our support staff to answer your questions and to give you status reports. Our legal assistants and paralegals are very experienced and will often be able to respond to your requests.
Let me talk to you a little about the process. This is how it works at Carpey Law. First, if we accept your case for representation, we will go into fact-gathering mode. Our initial meeting is actually the first part of fact-gathering mode. After we accept your case, you will be working with my assistants to make sure that we have all of the information that is available to you. We will need, depending on your case, approximately five years of your prior medical records, information from your employer, and information about your current medical condition. We will ask you periodically to complete written client questionnaires that contain questions we know the insurance company will ask as the case goes on. It is important that we know everything we can in order to help you best.

Once your treatment is ended or you are to the point when your care has plateaued or we are getting close to the statute of limitations, I will discuss with you the potential of settling your case. This will include information about your past and present medical condition and any future medical care that may be predicted by your physicians. I’ll tell you what I know about the medical bills, any liens or unpaid bills, your lost wages, prior claims, past history and a whole bunch of other data that we think is important to the case.

I will then apply my 30 years of experience trying cases just like yours in Pennsylvania courtrooms to give you a good idea about the settlement value of your case. I will help you make the best possible financial decision about your case. My valuation will be based not only on your own case, but upon review of literally thousands of “trial and settlement reports” over the years, discussions with insurance claim adjusters, other lawyers and judges, and attendance at advanced seminars and retreats for personal injury attorneys.

Once the settlement valuation is “complete” with your input, we will then meet, either by phone or in person, so you and I can decide how to proceed towards settlement. It may be that all that is needed is a quick email from you saying “Yes, Stuart, go ahead and try and settle my case per your recommendation.” Sometimes you will want to come in to speak with me to discuss the valuation of your case. Some clients may never want to go to trial and it’s important, if that is you, that I know that before I start settlement negotiations. I will prepare a written “demand package” to the insurance company. That package will have my analysis and supporting documentation. While we certainly will have discussed “soft spots” in your case with you, our demand to the insurance company will put the case in the light most favorable to you. I will then communicate to you settlement offers from the insurance company and I will help you “do the math.” In other words, I will let you know what amount of money you will get in your pocket if the case settles at the current offer.

Remember that if we go to court, we will have additional expenses. I will negotiate with the insurance company until I have what I believe to be their “top offer” before litigation. This may or may not be an offer that you want to accept, but it will be your decision after discussing that offer with me.

If your case cannot be settled, I will file a lawsuit. Again, my assistants will be involved in much of the underlying work and trading information with the insurance defense attorneys in the pre-trial stage of your case. This includes answering interrogatories, scheduling depositions, and preparing the case for trial. I will often continue negotiations during this time and right up to trial. If the case goes to trial, I will be the principal trial lawyer on your case and all the major strategic decisions will be made by me.

If at any time during this process you need to speak to me, it is as simple as calling the office or emailing me and setting up a specific appointment for a phone call or in-person meeting. If I’m not in trial or out of town on depositions, an appointment can usually be made to speak to me within a few days.

Any questions? Great. We can get started!

Very truly yours,

Stuart Carpey
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THE CARPEY CHRONICLE

Call me with any legal questions about injuries from any accident or medical care.
I promise to give you a straight forward answer.
That’s my guarantee.
610.834.6030

Did You Know We Handle All of These Types of Cases?

- Vehicle Accidents
- Bicycle Accidents
- Pedestrian Collisions
- Slip & Fall Accidents
- Wrongful Death
- Medical Malpractice
- Bus Accidents
- Truck Accidents
- Motorcycle Accidents

Give this newsletter to a friend.
They’ll thank you for it, and so will I.
Stuart Carpey