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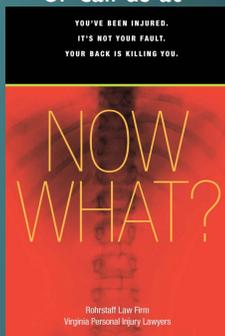
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IMPORTANT NEW BOOK

If you've been injured, read this book before talking to an insurance company. To get your FREE copy, go to our website,

www.RohrstaffLaw.com or call us at



The Rohrstaff Reader

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What if Your Child is Injured at Daycare?

This is a true story. Imagine it happens to your child.

On your way to pick up your toddler, you get a call from the daycare center that she woke up from her afternoon nap and apparently had injured herself during her nap. When you arrive, you see that it's not just a little redness on her face as you had suspected; it's a crying baby with a swollen area around her eye and nose that is turning colors. The teachers say there had been no falls or physical incidents with other children during the day. You ask questions, but mostly you get out of there as fast as you can and take her to the doctor.

The doctor confirms that the injury could not have happened during the child's nap. Consoled by the doctor that your daughter will be all right, you take your baby daughter home with her swollen nose and eye, with instructions about watching her for signs of possible head injury. You don't sleep well that night.

The next day, you meet with the director of the center, who seems very nice and apologetic and promises to do an investigation. The day after that, you have another meeting with the director and are given a written report of the incident along with the director's recommendations for actions the center will take to prevent further incidents. The good thing is that

the director has admitted that for part of the day when your daughter was injured, **there were not enough teachers on duty.** The bad thing, though, is that you do not get an explanation of how your daughter was injured.

I got a call from these parents, and we talked about what could be done and whether I could help them. We talked about what they could do instead of hiring a lawyer and suing the daycare center. I could tell these were parents who were motivated to do what was right for their daughter while holding the daycare center accountable, and I could tell they were resourceful.

They reported the injury to the Virginia Child Protection Services. Its investigation revealed a complaint of "founded", that is, the daycare center was wrongfully at fault for their daughter's injury. By the time the finding came down, the parents had already removed their daughter from the center and found a place for her where they feel she will be safe, and their daughter is happy and thriving.

Here are what these parents did right:

1. They removed their daughter from the unsafe center. Nobody should leave their child in a center where people lie to you about what happened. The center

first sounded like it was going to take responsibility, but it never did. The parents never found out how their daughter was injured.



2. They reported the incident to the state agency that would do an investigation, report to the parents and oversee the daycare center's activities.

3. When they were looking for a safe place for their daughter, they looked around a lot and decided on a place they felt comfortable with and where they felt their daughter would be safe. BUT, they did not hesitate to take her out of there once the daycare center breached their trust.

Not every case of injury, even to young children, ought to lead to a lawsuit. Nevertheless, you might want to call a child injury lawyer to ask questions and get information. My advice to these parents would have been very different if their daughter's injury had been life threatening or permanent. I am happy for this family that was not the case.



OUR SPOTLIGHT THIS MONTH MARY THOMPSON – RESEARCH HISTORIAN MOUNT VERNON, VIRGINIA

As we once again prepare to celebrate Independence Day, I looked a little south from Alexandria towards Mount Vernon, the longtime home of George and Martha Washington. I happen to know a real celebrity – MARY THOMPSON, a Research Historian at Mount Vernon where she has worked for over 30 years. Mary has a **cool job** – doing original research with documents and artifacts that the Father of our country actually wrote, touched and used. She and I sat down to talk about Mount Vernon and the folks who lived there when the United States of America was born.

Mary knows so much about George and Martha Washington and what life was like for their family and those who lived and worked at Mount Vernon, I felt like I was listening to her talk about people she knows at this very moment! Here are some neat things I learned from her:

- George Washington was about 6'1". Martha Washington was about 5' tall. When they married, in their mid 20's, Martha Washington was a widow with two young children.
- George Washington did not sign the Declaration of Independence because he was away fighting the war. He had been a member of the Continental Congress as a representative from Virginia. However, when war broke out "up north," he was asked to lead the troops since he had military leadership experience.

- Mrs. Washington was most comfortable at home. However, she was with General Washington for about half the time he was away from Mount Vernon fighting the American Revolution. Although she stayed in camp and didn't actually go into battle, she was at risk of being kidnapped or killed.
- Mrs. Washington was quite moved by the hardships of the troops. She used her contacts and influence and organized women from all across the states to contribute funds to her that she used to purchase fabric for making shirts for the soldiers. The seamstresses sewed the names of the soldiers into the necklines of the shirts.



Mary is the author of a book about the religious life of George Washington: *In the Hands of a Good Providence: Religion in the Life of George Washington* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2008), for which she received the 2009 Alexandria History Award from the Alexandria [Virginia] Historical Society. She has also contributed many chapters to other books about Washington and articles in many publications. She, indeed, is an expert on George Washington and his family.

Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

For several years, family members and friends and I have walked the Komen Race for the Cure in D.C. to honor the memories of loved ones who were taken away by breast cancer and to celebrate those who are winning their battles with the awful disease. I lost my mother to breast cancer when I was younger than my children are now and they were too young to remember her. Going on this walk every year allows me special time just to think about her and admit how much I have missed her and have wished she had gotten to know my family. For

the first time this year, both my children and grandchildren, and my daughter-in-law and my husband, spent a gorgeous morning walking with thousands of others. It might seem like a tiny, insignificant event in the grand scheme of things that won't make a difference -- except that it made a big difference to me to be able to share this time with those people who are most precious to me.



Swimming Pool Safety at Home

Janelle's
Corner

**You don't hear loud noises or splashing.
DROWNING IS SILENT!**

Here are some statistics:

- The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that each year, nationwide, there are approximately 300 children under 5 years old drown in swimming pools, usually a pool owned by their family.
- More than 2,000 children under 5 years old are treated in emergency rooms for submersion injuries.



- Small inflatable pools often fall outside of local building codes that require barriers, and may often be purchased by consumers without considering the barriers necessary to help protect young children from the dangers of pools.
- Many drowning deaths occur when young children are not expected to be near the pool area. In a CPSC study, almost 70% of the victims were last seen in the house or nearby on a porch or in the yard before the incident. Drowning can occur in the few minutes it takes to answer the phone.

Here are some Safety Rules:

Training

- Learn how to swim
- Learn CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) – you, your babysitter, family, other caretakers
- Have life-saving equipment in reach

Adult Supervision

- Never leave a child unsupervised
- Maintain constant eye-to-eye supervision with children in and around swimming pool area
- Remove children from pool and area for any distraction such as a phone call or the restroom
- If child is missing, check the pool first
- Assign a “designated watcher”. When adults become preoccupied, children are at risk
- Do not use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision
- Teaching your child how to swim DOES NOT mean your child is safe in water
- Practice touch supervision with children under 5 years. This means that the adult is within arm's length of the child at all times
- Remove toys from in and around the pool when it is not in use. Toys can attract young children to the pool.

Barriers

- Install a 4-foot fence around the pool.
- Have self-closing and self-latching gates.
- Have a fence enclosure that isolates your pool from the home, play areas, front and side yards and the neighbor's yard.
- All chairs, tables, large toys, or other objects that would allow child to climb up to reach the gate latch or enable the child to climb over isolation fence should be removed or kept inside the fenced area.
- Install safety drain covers (VirginiaChildInjuryLawyer.com)



KeepKidsHealthy.com, ABCPoolSafety.org, PoolSafety.gov, aap.org (American Academy of Pediatrics)

Important Feedback About Our Newsletter

We get lots of people telling us they enjoy our newsletter. (Please let us know what you think, even if it's critical. We don't want to bore you or fill your mailbox with junk.)

But, I must say that I just got the best feedback ever – from my 91-year-old father.

My dad lives in Texas, where I grew up. You won't be surprised to know that we didn't always get along. (What child EVER gets along with their parent all the time?) I think I surprised him when I decided to become a lawyer, and I may have disappointed him when I decided to represent injured people. His main exposure to injury law-

yers was through TV ads and giant billboards. San Antonio has LOTS of giant billboards, most of which say something like, “If you've been injured, call me, and I can get you lots of money.”

When I was talking to Dad recently, he told me that he is totally in favor of the type of newsletter we do, that it provides real information, raises my profession and isn't at all like other injury lawyers he knows about. I told him I couldn't do it any other way, that I see part of my professional responsibility is to educate people. He told me it makes him proud.

Thanks, Dad. You made my day.

YOU'VE BEEN INJURED.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
YOUR BACK IS KILLING YOU.

NOW WHAT?

Rohrstaff Law Firm
Virginia Personal Injury Lawyers



Sandra's Twin Grandbabies
Malynn & Jack - 13 mos. old
(Mike's (Sandra's son) kids)

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Sandra & Janelle
Mother & Daughter
Working to Help Other Families

I wrote this book to help injured people in Virginia. Over the years, I saw that there was no reliable source of good information for people who have been injured in Virginia. There either was NO information or BAD information. People make better decisions when their questions are answered accurately. So, I wrote this book. It explains what happens when someone has been in an accident and gives tips for getting through it the best way possible. It's not legal advice (every case is different - really), but it is full of valuable, reliable information. After reading this book, you should consult an attorney for legal advice.

NOW WHAT? is available FREE of charge to Virginia residents. You can request a copy by calling 703-260-6070 or at our website, www.RohrstaffLaw.com, or by e-mailing us at Janelle@RohrstaffLaw.com. Let me know what you think of it.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, or if you or someone you know would like to receive the Rohrstaff Reader in **LARGE PRINT**, please call Janelle at 703-260-6070, or e-mail her at Janelle@RohrstaffLaw.com.

Sheboygan Brats

My husband grew up in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Their traditional "fry out" meat is Johnsonville bratwurst. Here's his secret to making great brats.

One package Johnsonville bratwurst (plain; not sausage, not beer & brats). Put them in a large bowl with ½ can Foster Lager and ¼ bag National Hebrew sauerkraut.

While the brats are marinating (for about ½ hour), start the fire. When it's ready, remove the brats from the beer/sauerkraut mixture and grill them slowly off direct heat. Sprinkle liquid over the brats as they cook to keep flames from splitting the skins. The goal is to keep the skin intact so they stay juicy (which is why they were marinated before grilling). Turn them often and move them around the grill to keep them from cooking too fast.

They're ready when they're dark brown and crispy on the outside and light brown and juicy on the inside. Discard the liquid in which the raw brats were marinating.

Put mustard, onions, butter, dill pickles (and sauerkraut if you want) on a toasted, smashed Kaiser bun, add the brat and you have a delicious treat on your hands.

Repeat as often as possible all summer long.



Thank You

We always appreciate referrals. We hope you think of us if you, your family, or friends, have any legal matters that need attention. If we are not able to help you, then we will find a law firm that is. We welcome the opportunity to help you and those you care about.