

The Inside Story

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Inside This Issue:

- Facebook "memes" 2
- Quick Tip 3
- Recipe of the Month 3
- Workers' Comp Update 4

Reflections and Random Ramblings

by David M. Handley



The new year is upon us! Normally at this time of the year we tend to think back on the year that we just came through and compare it to previous years. This article is a reflection and observation of changes that I have seen in the workers' compensation arena.

Every year the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court provides statistics to the public on claims that are filed and settled as well as the amounts paid for medical treatment and indemnity compensation. Every year for the past ten years the number of workers' compensation claims filed in Nebraska has decreased.

One might anticipate that if the number of claims is dropping that the number of people needing help from an attorney must be dropping as well. My observation though is the exact opposite. In the last few years, I have seen a dramatic change in the way insurance companies are handling workers' compensation claims. First, many of the seasoned adjusters are gone. They have been replaced with inexperienced adjusters who often do not know the law or are incorrectly applying it. In many cases, this leads to injured workers who do not get medical treatment or whose benefits are incorrectly paid.

Continued on Page 3...


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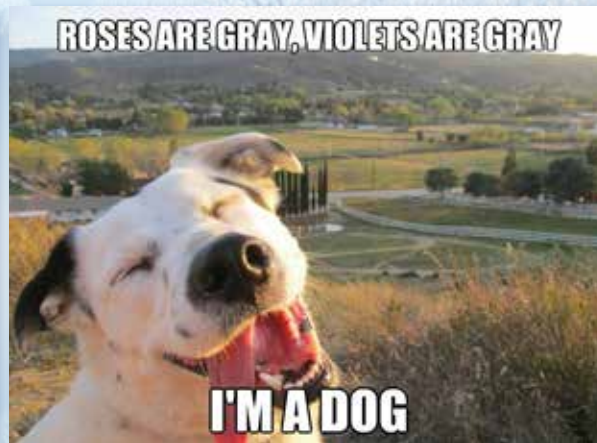
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The Inside Story

We are always amazed at how funny and creative people can be! Here are some of our favorite Facebook "memes" from 2013! We hope you like them as much as we do!

If you have a favorite meme, send it to lori@dyerlaw.com. Who knows? Maybe your meme will be in a future newsletter!



David M. Handley ... continued from Page 1

Additionally, I am seeing decisions from adjusters that just do not make any sense. As a result, the injured worker is forced to take the matter to court for resolution. In many cases, right before we have trial, the insurance company "suddenly" decides that they should have paid all along.

I believe that since there are fewer injured workers, insurance companies are concentrating more on fighting every case instead of selected cases. Many times the areas that they choose to fight make absolutely no logical sense. My recommendation is that if you or someone you know has a workers' compensation claim have them call us as soon as practical. Request a copy of our free book, 7 Common Mistakes that Can Destroy Your Workers' Compensation Case or ask to speak with an attorney. The call is always free, but the peace of mind is invaluable.

From all of us at Dyer Law, have a safe and Happy New Year.

Quick tip!

It's a new year. Make every effort to take care of yourself - relax, eat healthy foods, exercise and spend time with the people you enjoy.

Recipe of the Month - Banana Peanut Butter Smoothie!

Ingredients: 1 banana - thickly sliced and pre-frozen
1/8 cup peanut butter
1/2 cup milk or soy milk

Directions: Have a need for a quick, filling breakfast? Try this easy to fix Banana Peanut Butter Smoothie.

Put all ingredients into that rarely used blender and blend until smooth. Add more milk for desired consistency. If your banana wasn't quite sweet enough, you can always drizzle a little honey on top too.

Client's Bill of Rights

Lawyers will tell you that it is impossible to offer a guarantee in the legal business. **WRONG!** We say that law firm clients should settle for nothing less! Remember, your attorney works for you - not the other way around.

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Nebraska Workers' Compensation Benefit Increases

Effective January 1, 2014, the mileage rate will become 56.0 cents per mile for travel to seek medical treatment or while participating in a vocational rehabilitation plan. Additionally, the maximum weekly income benefit under the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act will increase to \$747.00. This amount applies to work-related injuries and illnesses occurring on or after January 1, 2014.

Source: Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court's web site at <http://www.wcc.ne.gov>

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If you have a legal matter that needs attention, let us know. If we can't handle the matter, we will refer you to a firm that can. Please feel free to refer us to your friends and family for their legal needs. We welcome the opportunity to help.