



# LAW OFFICE OF WILLIAM J. LUSE

AFFORDABLE AND AGGRESSIVE REPRESENTATION

AUTO ACCIDENTS • EMPLOYMENT LAW • CRIMINAL DEFENSE

## The Road to Justice Starts Here

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# Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who came to the open house for our new mock courtroom. A great time was had by all. We look forward to hosting additional events in the future.

May 2018 News



# It's Important to Be a Good Patient

If you sustain an injury due to someone else's negligence, good communication with your doctor and/or therapist and following through on their recommendations is critical for your health and well-being—and for receiving fair compensation from the at-fault party.

Being a good patient means keeping all your medical/therapy appointments. It also means giving the doctor or therapist detailed feedback on questions he/she asks you. Think about what you want to say and ask ahead of time; jot down notes prior to your appointment. Doctors and therapists aren't mind readers; they need to know what kind of progress you're making. A thorough and accurate medical record will bolster your personal injury claim.

Follow your healthcare provider's recommendations. Get prescriptions filled, carry out the exercise or stretching regimen they map out for you, and confirm what activities are OK and which ones are out of bounds. Get an idea of what developments in your recovery should prompt a call to the office.

Actions that can harm your personal injury claim include a delay in seeking medical treatment following an accident, skipping appointments, cutting off therapy early, and quitting treatment and then restarting weeks or months later, which creates a gap in your treatment record. All leave the door wide open for the at-fault party to argue that your injury is not as serious as you claim it is, or that your injury was caused by something else, not the accident in question.

Being a good patient and hiring an experienced personal injury attorney is the best way to receive fair compensation for your injuries. ●



# A Lot to Consider with Tiny Houses



Tiny houses—typically defined as having less than 500 square feet—have a lot of people excited, or at least intrigued. And why not? They're far less expensive than a traditional home; they're cozy; utility bills are reduced; they're more eco-friendly; and if you decide to move, you can take your house with you!

However, there are potential drawbacks that sometimes get overlooked. For instance, if someone is living with you, times of solitude may be in short supply. Tiny houses are not ideal for raising a child. They're not exactly great for indoor pets either (well, maybe a goldfish). Celebrating the holidays and other special occasions with family and friends will call for you to be a guest, not a host.

A lack of storage space means more trips to the grocery store. Your grocery bills will be higher, since you won't be able to buy in bulk. It might be difficult to prep meals ahead of time or store leftovers if your space can't accommodate a regular-size refrigerator.

You may have to tidy up more often. A little clutter in a traditional house is no big deal, but in a tiny house it can make your living space seem like a disaster area.

Frequently, local governments' building and zoning regulations make it difficult to construct and permanently reside in a tiny house. Some municipalities are coming around, but there's a long way to go.

For some people, their tiny house is a dream come true. For those thinking about one, it pays to look at all the pros and cons. Tiny house...huge decision. ●



# Dog Bone Treats Could Turn Deadly

Every good dog owner rewards their canine family member with treats from time to time. But recently the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned that dog bone treats might be one to avoid.

From 2010–2017, over 90 incidents of illness and 15 deaths attributed to bone treats have been documented by the FDA. The real numbers are likely much higher, since many cases don't get reported.

Bone treats can lead to gastrointestinal issues, including blockages of the digestive tract that may necessitate emergency surgery. Cuts and wounds of the mouth, choking, vomiting, diarrhea, and rectal bleeding have been reported as well.

Bone treats differ from natural, uncooked butcher bones in that the bones are dried through a smoking process and contain preservatives and flavoring ingredients. Some bone treats are actually ground-up animal material that is pressed into a bone shape, elevating the risk that small shards will break off and cause internal damage and blockages.

“Ham Bones,” “Pork Femur Bones,” and “Smokey Knuckle Bones” are common names for bone treats, and their price tag may be enticing to unwary dog owners. At many stores, 15 bone treats are less expensive than one synthetic bone or new chew toy.

If you've had chicken or turkey for dinner, keep those bones clear of your dog as well. Secure your trash can from a prying nose and paws. Supervise your dog with any new chew toy or treat. If they begin to act strangely, promptly call your veterinarian. Your vet can also guide you on appropriate dog treats. There's enough variety out there to keep your dog happy and healthy! ●

**May 2018 Important Dates**

- May 3** National Day of Prayer
- May 5** Cinco de Mayo
- May 6** National Nurses Day
- May 13** Mother's Day
- May 19** Armed Forces Day
- May 28** Memorial Day

# The Most Exciting Two Minutes in Sports

The Kentucky Derby is not just a horse race; it's a cultural event. Held each year on the first Saturday in May at Churchill Downs, the Derby has developed some cherished traditions since its inaugural running in 1875.

Roses play a key role in the pomp and circumstance of the Derby. They were first used as decoration at post-Derby parties, and by the 1890s became part of the race's award presentation. A simple bouquet transformed into a garland of over 500 flowers sewn into a green satin backing that is draped over the winning horse.

The ornate hats worn by women to the Derby hearken back to horse racing in England. Horse racing was known as the sport of kings in England, so fancy attire was the norm, including “big hats.” Kentucky Derby organizers borrowed the tradition for marketing purposes to draw more women to the race. Mission accomplished.

The drink of choice for the Derby is the mint julep, a concoction of bourbon, sugar, crushed ice, and sprigs of mint. Legend has it that famed Polish actress Helena Modjeska tried the drink at a pre-Derby breakfast in 1877 and loved it. It evidently was a fantastic endorsement.

“My Old Kentucky Home” has been the official song of the Derby since the 1920s. It was written in the 1850s by Stephen Collins Foster and was reportedly inspired by *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a Harriet Beecher Stowe novel. Since 1936, the University of Louisville marching band has performed the song as 150,000+ spectators sing along while the horses parade before the grandstand prior to the race. A true spectacle of sight, sound, and emotion. ●



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Thank You  
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## Police Officers and the Miranda Warning

The 1966 Supreme Court decision in *Miranda vs. Arizona* resulted in the Miranda warning—the familiar “You have the right to remain silent...” The Supreme Court established that those who are in police custody must have their rights read to them prior to police interrogation (many cases don’t require interrogation). Until 1966, many criminal suspects were not aware of their rights and thus incriminated themselves during this process. Suspects must still provide basic identification information, with or without the Miranda warning.

If the police fail to give the Miranda warning to a suspect in custody prior to questioning, any statement or confession they gather is considered involuntary. It cannot be used against the suspect in court. All evidence discovered via that statement will likely be thrown out, too. Although potentially a big blow to the prosecution, other witnesses and evidence may still save the day.

However, if someone is not in police custody—and it is made clear to them that they are free to go at any time—no Miranda warning is required. Sometimes the police avoid arresting someone for that very reason. If the suspect says anything incriminating, he/she can be arrested at that point.

Exceptions to the Miranda warning include an imminent danger to the public (e.g., a suspected terrorist is arrested and may know the location of a bomb) and the utilization of a jailhouse informant, who serves as a proxy for the police.

The Miranda warning is a staple of our legal system. If you find yourself in police custody, utilize your Miranda rights and contact a criminal defense attorney. ●

