

The Road To Justice Starts Here

Exclusively Representing Women in Divorce, Custody and Support Matters.

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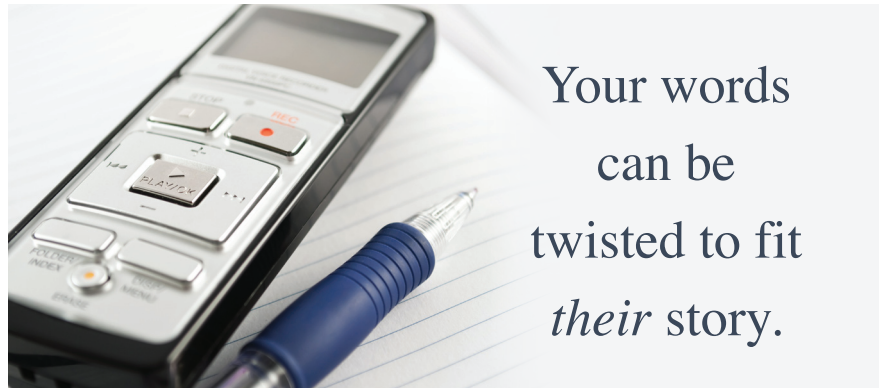
the pitfalls OF RECORDED STATEMENTS

If you've been in an auto accident and the other party is at fault, expect the other guy's insurance company to come a callin', quite possibly within 24 hours. High on their priority list will be to charm (or scare) you into giving a recorded statement. **Do not agree to it—ever.**

Anything you say in a recorded statement can be used against you later. Your words can be twisted to fit *their* story. You might say something that didn't come out right, and once uttered, it can't be taken back. If you change your answers later, it will look like *you're* the one who's changing their story.

Also, some injuries only manifest themselves days, weeks, and even months after an accident. If you speak on your health too quickly, you may look foolish later, hurting your case.

The adjuster might ask you to sign a medical authorization in order to get their hands on your



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medical records. **Never sign off on this either** (or *any* documents). Medical authorization gives them wide latitude to delve into far more information than is necessary. Obtain your own medical records and bills. Review them for accuracy and clear up any errors with your doctor. At that point you can select what is truly pertinent to send along to the other party's adjuster.

The other guy's insurance adjuster is not your friend. Everything they do is designed to keep from paying you what you deserve. You *will* need to be more forthcoming with your own insurance company...but exercise caution. Contact an auto accident attorney to protect your rights. ■



Paul's recipe of the month

VICHYSOISE

Summer is here! And, we have actually had a summer in San Francisco this year. So, for this month's recipe I am giving you the instructions to create the great French summer, refreshing chilled leek and potato soup, Vichyssoise. This is one my favorites and I am sure you'll enjoy it too. Regardless, let me know what you think of this soup.

Best,

Paul

Serves 4 to 6

Don't let the onion and leeks brown as they cook, or the color of the soup will be marred.

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 medium onion, chopped medium (about 1 cup)
- 4 medium leeks, white and light green parts only, sliced crosswise 1/4-inch thick (about 4 cups)
- 3 cups canned low-sodium chicken broth or homemade chicken stock
- 1 small russet potato (about 5 ounces), peeled and cut into 1/2-inch dice (about 1 cup)
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Salt and ground white pepper
- 2 tablespoons fresh chives, minced

Instructions

1. Melt the butter in a large stockpot or Dutch oven over medium-low heat. When the butter foams, stir in the onion and leeks. Reduce the heat to low, cover the pot, and cook, stirring frequently, until the vegetables are softened, about 10 minutes.
2. Add the stock and potato, increase the heat to medium-high, and bring the mixture to a boil. Reduce the heat to low, cover, and simmer until the potato pieces are completely tender, 10 to 15 minutes.
3. Working in batches, puree the mixture in a blender until it is liquefied and smooth, 1 to 2 minutes. Pour the puree through a fine-mesh strainer into a large bowl. Stir in the heavy cream and season with salt and pepper to taste. Cool to room temperature, then cover tightly and refrigerate until chilled, at least 4 hours or up to 2 days. Adjust the seasonings. Ladle the soup into individual bowls and sprinkle with chives. Serve immediately.

Technique

Cleaning Leeks



Slosh the cut end of the leek up and down in still water.



Hold the leek under running water and shuffle the cut layers like a deck of cards.



Enjoy! ■

THE VARIOUS forms of alimony

Following a divorce (and sometimes preceding one), alimony may be awarded to a spouse, depending on the circumstances. Alimony is designed so the recipient can maintain a lifestyle reasonably comparable to the lifestyle they were accustomed to while married. Alimony comes in a number of forms:

Permanent alimony can only be terminated upon the death of either spouse, or if the supported spouse remarries. The amount of alimony paid can be adjusted based on a significant change of circumstances—for example, the financial situation of one or the other spouse has changed or the supported spouse cohabits with another man/woman for a specified period of time. Permanent alimony is generally geared to those who had long-term marriages (10 or more years). If the marriage was too brief for permanent alimony, the court might award limited duration alimony, which is similar in principle to permanent alimony but has a fixed start and end date determined in advance by the court.

Rehabilitative alimony is awarded for a set period of years to be determined by the two parties or the court. Its intent is to enable a spouse to undertake job training or earn a degree to become more self-sufficient. This type of alimony is frequently awarded when the marriage was of short duration.

Reimbursement alimony “reimburses” a spouse who supported the other spouse in a way that enabled them to invest the time to attain a degree or develop a business. The support during the marriage need not have been financial. It can include maintaining the household, taking care of the kids, and providing emotional support.

Temporary alimony provides spousal support and serves as a bridge between official separation and the final divorce decree.

If you’re contemplating divorce, be sure to contact a family law attorney to protect your rights. ■

July 2013 Important Dates

July 28 – Parents’ Day

July 14 – Bastille Day

July 4 – Independence Day

safety alert – THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN KEEPING YOUR POOL OR SPA SAFE

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) lists the following equipment guidelines on its website to help keep your pool or spa safe this summer:

- Install a four-foot or taller fence around the pool and spa and use self-closing and self-latching gates; ask your neighbors to do the same at their pools.
- Install and use a lockable safety cover on your spa.
- If your house serves as a fourth side of a fence around a pool, install door alarms and always use them. For additional protection, install window guards on windows facing pools or spas.
- Install pool and gate alarms to alert you when children go near the water.
- Ensure any pool and spa you use has compliant drain covers, and ask your pool service provider if you do not know.
- Maintain pool and spa covers in good working order.
- Consider using a surface wave or underwater alarm.



For more pool and spa safety tips, please go to www.poolsafely.gov. ■



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This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

to fight or not to fight A TRAFFIC TICKET...

If you've been issued a traffic ticket, you need to know if it's worth your time and effort to contest it. If the alleged violation results in a criminal offense on your record, a steep fine, possible jail time, a spike in your insurance, or loss of your driver's license, it's time to roll up your sleeves...and contact a traffic attorney.

Traffic tickets can be beaten. Many traffic offenses are not clear-cut, but police officers know that 97 percent of citations are not contested. When you receive your ticket, do not pay it. Paying it is an admission of guilt. Instead, your attorney can arrange for you to get your day in court.

Sometimes, a police officer doesn't fully understand the technical aspects of the law or takes liberties in interpreting the law. Those are softballs an attorney should hit out of the park.

Certain laws have leeway in their interpretation. For instance,

about a third of states have speed limits that are not absolute. If you were driving slightly above the posted limit but were doing so safely, a judge might rule in your favor.

If a police officer doesn't show up in court, you will likely win automatically since you have the right to question your accuser. In addition, police officers often stack their court appearances on the same day. Changing your court date could mean they're less likely to show.

Sometimes there are serious errors on your ticket, a police officer may have had an obstructed view, or the wrong vehicle was nabbed in a supposed traffic violation.

There may be some tickets that are just best to pay and dispense with. Other times, however, there is much more at stake. Your attorney will lay out your options and guide you through the process. ■

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