

# The Road To Justice Starts Here

Exclusively Representing Women in Divorce, Custody and Support Matters.

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## child support and emancipation

Once a child reaches the age of majority—the age at which a parent is no longer responsible for providing support to a child—they are considered emancipated. The age of majority ranges from 18 to 21 depending on what state you're in, with a sprinkling of other stipulations from state to state.

A child may be emancipated prior to the age of majority for the following reasons: marriage, military service, economic independence, and complete abandonment of the parental home. Short of these exceptions, a parent paying child support will continue payments until the age of emancipation has been reached.

Even after a child reaches the age of emancipation, there are still scenarios in which a parent will continue paying child support. If the child is a special-needs child, a court may order continued payments. If a minor child gets divorced and requires care and custody once again, the parent who had seemingly been relieved of child-support duty is now back on the clock. A separation or divorce agreement may also specify that payments continue beyond the age of emancipation (e.g., paying through college).



Child-support payments are not automatically terminated upon a child reaching the age of majority or in situations in which a child becomes emancipated prior to the age of majority. The parent will need to make a formal request of the courts to make it official.

When child support is being paid for multiple children of the same family and one child reaches the age of majority, a modification of the child-support agreement will generally need to be sought by the paying parent.

Contact a family law attorney if you have any questions on this important topic. ■



# Paul's recipe of the month

I just made this recipe the other night and really enjoyed it. It is a recipe for grilled chicken from a legendary chef from New Delhi, India. It is an easy recipe and has interesting, and strong flavors I really enjoyed.

## BADEMIYA'S JUSTLY FAMOUS CHILE-CORIANDER CHICKEN

### ADVANCE PREPARATION

4 to 6 hours for marinating the chicken.

### Ingredients

- Cut into thigh and drumstick portions)
- 1 1/2 tablespoons coriander seeds
- 2 teaspoons whole black peppercorns
- 1 teaspoon cumin seed
- 6 garlic cloves, peeled
- 1 piece fresh ginger (2 inches)
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup water (or as needed)
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 -3 teaspoon cayenne pepper (see above)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped



### Directions

1. Remove and discard the skin from the chicken legs, then rinse under cold running water. Drain and blot dry with paper towels. Place the legs in a baking dish large enough to hold them in one layer and set aside while you prepare the seasoning paste.
2. Heat a dry skillet over medium heat and add the coriander seeds, peppercorns, and cumin seeds. Toast the spices until fragrant, 2 to 3 minutes, shaking the skillet occasionally. Let cool, then transfer to a spice mill and grind to a fine powder. Combine the ground spices in a blender or mini chopper with the garlic, ginger, oil, 1/4-cup water, lemon juice, cayenne, and salt. Process to a smooth paste, adding more water if necessary to obtain a pourable consistency. Add the cilantro and process just to mix.
3. Using your fingers, spread the seasoning paste over the chicken legs to coat on both sides, then cover and let marinate, in the refrigerator, for 4 to 6 hours.
4. Preheat the grill to high.
5. When ready to cook, oil the grill grate. Remove the chicken legs from the baking dish and arrange on the hot grate. Grill, turning with tongs, until the juices run clear when the tip of the skewer or sharp knife is inserted in the thickest part of a thigh, 6 to 10 minutes per side (12 to 20 minutes in all).

You can serve this with your favorite sauce for chicken such as the chimichurri sauce I provided in a previous newsletter, yogurt or coriander sauce. Enjoy! ■

# the honest truth ABOUT LIE DETECTORS

When John Larson invented the lie detector machine, or polygraph, in 1921, the basic premise was that deception took effort—physiological effort that could be monitored and assessed.

The lie detector test measures three physiological functions simultaneously: breathing, pulse, and electroconductivity of the skin. When the most significant biological reactions match up with the key questions in the test, stress is deemed to have taken place, followed by the presumption that a lie was told (or deception occurred).

Those who vouch for lie detector tests say that very few people can control all three physiologic functions at the same time. They also believe that the pretest questions asked by the examiner to meticulously calibrate the machine provide an accurate barometer of a person's physiologic responses when relevant questions are asked during the actual test.

Critics argue that there are a lot of expert liars out there who can conceal stress. They also point out that there is no reliable way to distinguish between stress caused by a lie and stress caused by the mere fact of having to take the test.

There are ways to “trick” the machine as well. Yoga and biofeedback training can change a polygraph's results. Inflicting a measure of pain on oneself during testing and simple physical movements can skew the outcome, as can drugs that affect stress reactions.

For these reasons and more, most courts prohibit the admissibility of polygraph results into evidence unless both sides agree to it. Although independent studies estimate the accuracy of the test in the 80–90 percent range, flip those figures around for a moment; they're inaccurate 10–20 percent of the time. Not good numbers when the stakes are so high.. ■

# bluster, blather, and lies

Debt collection agencies want their money, *now*, sometimes resorting to threats, intimidation, and outright lying to close out accounts. But this isn't the Wild West; there are laws in place to keep things on a proper footing.

Beware of the following lies debt collectors might lean on:

**“Paying off your debt immediately will protect your credit rating.”** A collection agency saying you can “protect your credit rating” may seem a bit head-scratching, for good reason. Wording such as “was in collections” or “90 days past due” will generally remain indelibly transcribed on your credit report for seven years from the date of last payment.

**“This is not a dischargeable debt under bankruptcy. We'll sue you anyway and take everything.”** This little tantrum is designed to scare you, nothing more. Filing for bankruptcy buys a person space from

a collection agency; a collector is highly trained and knows this very well. They're counting on you being in the dark.

**“We'll garnish your wages.”** Wage garnishment is a court-structured process in which you'll get a chance to plead your case after proper notification. A collector does not have ultimate say.

**“Pay us with a post-dated check. That'll smooth things over for you.”** Never do this. Bank tellers sometimes don't pay attention to the date on the check and will cash it—there's not much you can do about it and you'll get an overdraft fine to boot.

**“We'll let your family, friends, and boss know about this.”** Under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you have the right to be free from harassment. Debt collectors are forbidden to share your personal information with anyone else. If they do, contact a debt harassment attorney to protect your rights. ■

## October 2013 Important Dates

October 8 – National Children's Day  
October 14 – Columbus Day Observed  
October 16 – National Boss Day  
October 27 – Mother-in-Law Day  
October 31 – Halloween

## did you know? Halloween Means Big Business

According to the National Retail Federation, Americans spent close to \$8 billion on Halloween in 2012, and the average person spent around \$80 on decorations, costumes, and candy combined. It's expected that over 170 million people will take part in celebrating Halloween this year, with over 50 percent choosing to decorate their home or yard and even 15 percent deciding to dress their pets in costumes!

Whether you take part or not, please be extra careful this Halloween once the little ghouls and goblins take to our streets. ■





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## CHILD SUPPORT AND emancipation



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# WHOOPING COUGH IS no laughing matter

Whooping cough, or pertussis, is a highly contagious respiratory tract infection (bacterial) often marked by severe bouts of coughing, and is spread by coughing and sneezing. It can cause serious illness in infants, children, and adults, and is potentially life threatening, especially for infants, over 50 percent of whom need to be hospitalized. The severe hacking may be topped off by high-pitched gasps for air (whooping)—a truly frightening experience at its worst.

In 2010, whooping cough cases in the United States reached their highest level since 1959. The reasons for this include elevated awareness, better reporting, improved diagnostic tests, and increased circulation of the bacteria. In addition, in the 1990s a switch in vaccines was made. Older vaccines (DTP) spurred a number of side effects; the newer vaccines (DTaP) eliminated those. However, the trade-off is that DTaP immunity doesn't last as long.

Infants and youngsters should have the full complement of vaccines, and then a booster (Tdap) is recommended by age 11 or 12, since the original shots' effectiveness will be waning. Adults are advised to get one, too—if illness is prevented, it can't be spread.

Vaccinations aren't foolproof, but should at least diminish the severity and duration of the infection. An unvaccinated experience with whooping cough may persist for 10 weeks or more. Antibiotics are the only treatment, and very little can be done for the coughing. Cough medicines are strongly discouraged.

Prevention is the best policy. Once you've contracted a case of whooping cough, you're in for a bumpy ride. ■

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