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LETTER

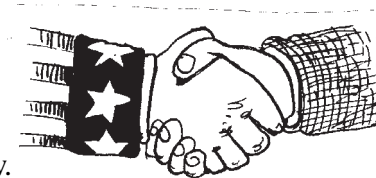
New Legislation That May Affect You

The legislative session is now over for this term and although there were some 300 laws passed and amended, the following are reports on some of the law changes which should have impact on the majority of us.

(1) House Bill 1027 has now made it a crime for a felon to be in possession of an “altered air or toy pistol.” It was already a felony for a felon to possess an imitation pistol.

(2) House Bill 1669 made the watermelon the official state vegetable (honestly).

(3) House Bill 1682 has established Grandparents Visitation in certain circumstances outlined in this law.



(4) House Bill 1804 is relating to the status of illegal immigrants. The portion of this law most likely to effect private citizens is that it is now illegal for a business company or corporation to issue any identification certificate, identification documents or identification card to any illegal alien.

(5) House Bill 1816 stiffened the penalties for engaging in child abuse and child sexual abuse for any child under the age of 12.

(6) Senate Bill 145 allows County Judges to carry a pistol in the course of this employment (inside the Court) if they are concealed carry holders.

(7) Senate Bill 158 prohibits the Court from changing permanent custody of a child based upon the fact that the custody parent has been deployed overseas.

(8) Senate Bill 398 expanded our Vulnerable Adult Act to include “financial neglect” on any person legally entrusted to the care of a caretaker.

(9) Senate Bill 469 has now made it clear that any time a child is taken away from his/her custodian by the Department of Human Services – every attempt be made to place a child with a member of the child’s family.

(10) Senate Bill 593 has expanded the ability of law enforcement to (1) search any vehicle engaged in transporting items as a business (2) place tracking devices on such vehicles and (3) intercept communications from such vehicle.

(11) Senate Bill 868 allows members of the immediate family of a murder victim to wear a button containing a picture of the victim at the trial.

(12) Senate Bill 943 allows child support arrearages to be a lien upon a personal injury claim, wrongful death claim or worker’s compensation claim.

(13) Senate Bill 945 expands the counties in which a child support order can be enforced within the state of Oklahoma.

Personal Injury

Whiplash is a unique injury that occurs most often to drivers and passengers involved in rear-end collision automobile accidents, when the force from the impact causes the head to snap violently back and forward. Because the term “whiplash” has developed something of a negative connotation through the years, today the injury is commonly referred to as cervical sprain, cervical strain, or hyperextension injury. No matter its name, a crash does not need to happen at high speed for a whiplash injury to result, because even at low speeds the unexpected impact can cause injury to vertebrae, muscles, and ligaments in the neck.

(Note: While whiplash injuries most often result from car accidents, they can occur in any situation where a sudden back and forth “whipping” movement occurs in the neck area, including slips, falls, blows to the head from an assault, and injuries suffered through participation in sports activities.)

Whiplash injuries are not of a type that can always be immediately recognized. If you are involved in an automobile accident, your natural physiological responses and the “heat of the moment” may not allow you to relax. But over the course of the next few days after the accident, you might experience:

- tightness and stiffness in the neck
- serious neck pain (dull and aching, rather than sharp)
- dizziness
- head aches
- problems with balance and equilibrium
- back pain
- memory problems
- difficulty with concentration

If you are suffering from a whiplash injury, your attorney will most likely refer you to a medical specialist for treatment, rather than to a general physician. You may be referred to a back and neck expert, chiropractor, or neurologist. Treatment from such medical specialists can include immobilization of the neck (with a brace or cervical collar), range-of-motion and physical therapy, muscle relaxants, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and massage therapy. In severe cases of whiplash injuries, where muscle or ligament damage is extensive, cervical traction and even surgery may be necessary.

In some cases, recovery from whiplash injuries can take as little as two to three weeks, and in most instances victims will completely recover within three months. More serious cases can last for a year

or more, and in rare situations severe whiplash injuries can result in a chronic pain condition that may last for decades.

Whiplash injuries may seem minor at first, especially due to the lack of any visible symptoms, but if left undiagnosed and untreated whiplash injuries can lead to chronic pain. Untreated whiplash injuries can also make a person more susceptible to future back and neck injuries. If you have been involved in an automobile accident or other incident in which you have suffered a whiplash injury, it is crucial that you receive medical attention, and then contact an experienced attorney to guarantee that your legal rights are protected.

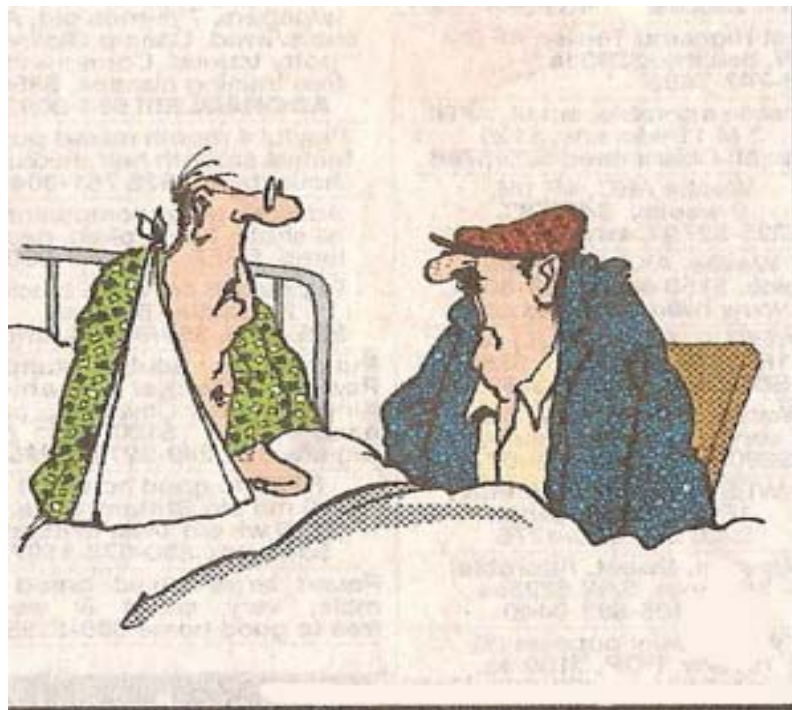
Need a Gun License ?



H&H Gun Range offers a Self Defense Act Safety Course (Concealed Carry Class). This 8 hour program includes a written test and covers Oklahoma law in the use of deadly force, safety issues, fundamentals of shooting, firing on the range and how to apply for your license. Students will need to

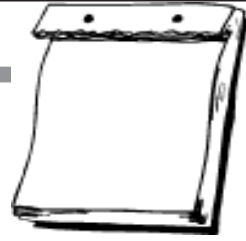
bring 50 rounds of factory-boxed ammunition, a workable handgun, cap or visor, and pen or pencil. **Please call and confirm dates at (405) 947-3888.**

Legal Laughs



“I told her I wanted a ‘trial separation’ so she tried to separate my shoulder!”

Family Law



Pros and Cons: Premarital Agreements (“Prenuptials”)

PROS

- A premarital agreement can protect the inheritance rights of children and grandchildren from a previous marriage.
- If you have your own business or professional practice, a premarital agreement can protect that interest so that the business or practice is not divided and subject to the control or involvement of your former spouse upon divorce.
- If one spouse has significantly more debt than the other, a premarital agreement can protect the debt-free spouse from having to assume the obligations of the other.
- If you plan to give up a lucrative career after the marriage, a premarital agreement can ensure that you will be compensated for that sacrifice if the marriage does not last.
- A premarital agreement can address more than the financial aspects of marriage, and can cover any of the details of decision-making and responsibility sharing to which the parties agree in advance.
- A premarital agreement can limit the amount of spousal support that one spouse will have to pay the other upon divorce.
- A premarital agreement can protect the financial interests of older persons, persons who are entering into second or subsequent marriages, and persons with substantial wealth.

CONS

- The agreement may require you to give up your right to inherit from your spouse’s estate when he or she dies. Under the law, you are entitled to a portion of the estate even if your spouse does not include such a provision in his or her will.
- If you contribute to the continuing success and growth of your spouse’s business or professional practice by entertaining clients and taking care of the home, etc., thus allowing him or her to focus on professional endeavors, you may not be entitled to claim a share of the increase in value if you agree otherwise in a premarital agreement. Under the laws of many states, this increase in value would be considered divisible marital property.
- Starting a relationship with a contract that sets forth the particulars of what will happen upon death or divorce can engender a sense of lack of trust. As mentioned above, a contract can take the wind out of your emotional sails.
- It can be difficult to project into the future about how potential issues should be handled, and what may seem like an inconsequential compromise in the romantic premarital period may seem more monumental and burdensome in reality.
- A low- or non-wage-earning spouse may not be able to sustain the lifestyle to which he or she has become accustomed during the marriage if the agreement substantially limits the amount of spousal support to which that spouse is entitled.
- In the “honeymoon” stage of a relationship, one spouse may agree to terms that are not in his or her best interests because he or she is “too in love” to be concerned about the financial aspects and can’t imagine the union coming to an untimely end.

Firm News



The Law Offices of Doug Friesen, P.C. adds another teammate to its winning team

The Law Offices of Doug Friesen, P.C. is proud to introduce **Jacob L. Rowe**. Although Jacob has been an intern here for the past two years, he recently graduated from Oklahoma City University School of Law and after successful completion of the Oklahoma Bar Exam will begin his new position as Associate Attorney. During his duration at Oklahoma City University Jacob

was a member of Phi Delta Phi International Honor Fraternity and was a Merit Scholar. Jacob is mostly looking forward to helping people in their daily legal issues and getting to know the legal community as much as possible.

Jacob lives in Yukon with his wife Dana and their two dogs Phoenix, a Miniature Pinscher, and Deuce, an American Pit Bull Terrier. When he is not working, Jacob enjoys scuba diving, playing poker, and listening to the music of Bob Dylan. He is also a fan of mixed martial arts competition and trains locally in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

House Hunting

Most People doing their house hunting online

The national Association of Realtors Profile of Homebuyers and Sellers found that 80 percent of recent homebuyers used the Internet to search for homes. When you consider that only 2 percent of homebuyers used the Internet in 1995, it’s a big increase. According to Meredith Dunn on Realtor.org, the Internet is not replacing real estate agents, but acts as a connector between them and buyers. Those buyers who use the Internet are more likely to use a real estate professional than those who don’t.

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Satisfaction of Our Clients

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LOB LETTER



5 Tips For Tenants

Know Your Rights When You Rent A House or Apartment

- 1. Bring your paperwork.** The best way to win over a prospective landlord is to be prepared. Bringing the following information when you meet prospective landlords will give you a competitive edge over other applicants: a completed rental application; written references from landlords, employers, friends and colleagues; and a current copy of your credit report.
- 2. Review the lease.** Carefully review all of the conditions of the tenancy before you sign on the dotted line. Your lease or rental agreement may contain a provision that you find unacceptable — for example, restrictions on guests, pets, design alterations, or running a home business.
- 3. Get everything in writing.** To avoid disputes or misunderstandings with your landlord, get everything in writing. Keep copies of any correspondence and follow up an oral agreement with a letter, setting out your understandings. For example, if you ask your landlord to make repairs, put your request in writing and keep a copy for yourself. If the landlord agrees orally, send a letter confirming this.
- 4. Purchase renters' insurance.** Your landlord's insurance policy will not cover your losses due to theft or damage. Renters' insurance also covers you if you're sued by someone who claims to have been injured in your rental due to your carelessness. Renters' insurance typically costs \$350 a year for a \$50,000 policy that covers loss due to theft or damage caused by other people or natural disasters; if you don't need that much coverage, there are cheaper policies.
- 5. Protect your security deposit.** To protect yourself and avoid any misunderstandings, make sure your lease or rental agreement is clear on the use and refund of security deposits, including allowable deductions. When you move in, do a walk-through with the landlord to record existing damage to the premises on a move-in statement or checklist.