



Client Advisory

Important News & Information For Current Davis Law Group Clients

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The *Client Advisory* is designed to offer clients **important reminders and general information** that are relevant to the management of their case. We want to help you understand the legal process and work together to maximize the value of your claim. **Every case is different. Information in the client advisory may not be relevant to all case types.** Contact our office if you have specific questions about your case. The *Client Advisory* is sent to only those **Davis Law Group** clients that have a current, active personal injury or wrongful death claim. Once your case is completely closed you will no longer receive the *Client Advisory*. If you have any questions about or suggestions for this publication, please contact Mischelle Weedman-Davis, Director of Client Relations and Operations.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

SURVEILLANCE WARNING: Insurance Company Investigators May Be Watching

Video Surveillance

Over the years, insurance companies have begun to rely more frequently on surveillance to help them defeat or minimize the settlement value of personal injury claims. **An insurance company has the legal right to shoot video, take audio or take still photographs of an injured person anytime they are in a public setting.** An insurance company **cannot** tap a phone or take video of someone through a window of that person's home.

You probably will not know if you are being watched. But a common scenario is that the private investigator will set up a post outside of your residence in an unmarked car and wait for you to come outside. The investigator will then follow you as you go about your daily routines. He will take video recordings of you getting in and out of your car, filling your car up with gas, loading your car with groceries, putting your child in their car seat, going to restaurants, shopping in stores, etc. It is okay to do those things, but make sure you are not moving or lifting in a manner that would seem inconsistent with your injury. ■

Online/Social Media Surveillance

Insurance companies also have the right to search any public information that you have posted online. Insurance companies are using social media to monitor claimants. Using social media sites can cost you money—reduce your settlement amount. Insurance companies monitor Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other social media sites. What you post online can harm your case. Refrain

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from posting anything online about your case. Do not post photographs or videos of yourself participating in activities that one would think are impossible for an injured person. **Do not accept friend requests from anyone that you do not know—the friend request might actually be coming from an insurance investigator.** ■

PLEASE REMEMBER: It Pays To Be Patient

Resolving personal injury cases takes time. We will be happy to discuss the value of your claim when the information is sufficiently complete to do so, usually after your medical treatment has been concluded or when, according to your doctors, you have reached a state of maximum improvement. Please do not hesitate to call our if you should have any questions or concerns. ■

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?

Updating Your Contact Information

Please remember to keep us informed about all changes to your physical address, mailing address, residence telephone number, mobile telephone number, and email address so we can easily contact you. ■

TECHNOLOGY IN THE COURTROOM

Jury Service In The Digital Age

Online research conducted by a juror can often result in inaccurate or prejudicial information influencing deliberations.

Jury decisions must be based solely on the testimony and evidence presented in the courtroom during the course of the trial. This is critical to a fair trial. But with greater and greater frequency there are more mistrials and appeals of jury verdicts due to one or more jurors using the internet to research information on legal terms, case law, plaintiffs, defendants, attorneys, news reports related to cases, etc. In addition more and more jurors that are discussing trials and deliberations in social media, personal blogs, etc. And increasingly more judges are putting their foot down and imposing penalties such as holding jurors in contempt of court, requiring them to pay fines, convicting them of a criminal offense or even sending them to jail.

According to the *Center for Jury Studies*, the problem is so widespread that it has sparked the coining of the term 'Google Mistrials'. This kind of juror misconduct is concerning for two reasons, 1-) jurors may use the Internet to obtain information about the case that the judge has ruled as inadmissible or irrelevant; and 2-) jurors may violate the privacy of jury deliberations by communicating with outsiders who may influence the verdict.

What is the solution to this problem? Is there anyway to stop it? What should judges do? What if all jurors were sequestered? ■

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WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

Client Medical Treatment Status Update

As you know, every four to six weeks we ask each of our clients that is still in the “treatment phase of their case” to give us an update on the status of their condition and treatment. If you have not already recently done so, **please contact the paralegal who is assisting with your case to give up an update on your medical treatment.** You can call, send an email, fill out an online form.....whatever method of communication works best for you. ■



October Calendar

Don't Drink & Drive. WalkLikeMADD!

WalkLikeMADD is your chance to do something about drunk driving in our community. This year, thousands of people in over 60 cities around the nation will participate in 5K events to eliminate drunk driving from our roadways. Will you join us on October 10th at Greenlake? For more information visit WalkLikeMADD.org. NOTE: Davis Law Group is a sponsor of **WalkLikeMADD**.

National Teen Driver Safety Week

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 14-18 year olds in the U.S. In fact, almost half of the teen drivers involved in a crash die. Yet, a recent survey show that only 25% of parents have had a serious talk with their kids about the key components of driving. Sponsored by the National **Highway Traffic Safety Administration, National Teen Driver Safety Week** seeks to raise awareness and promote safe driving habits. For more information visit www.nhtsa.gov.

National School Bus Safety Week

Sponsored by the **National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT)**, **National School Bus Safety Week** is an education program designed to promote school bus safety during the third week in October each year. For more information visit napt.org.

Paralegal Week

In 2010, then Governor Christine Gregoire proclaimed October 25th thru the 29th **Washington State Paralegal Week** to salute paralegals for their contribution to the delivery of legal services to citizens of the State of Washington. However, since that time there has not been another, official Paralegal Week. Wanting to recognize our paralegals for the outstanding work that they do, Davis Law Group has declared that the 3rd week of October will always be **DLG Paralegal Week**.

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DAVIS LAW GROUP, P.S.
SERIOUS INJURY & WRONGFUL DEATH ATTORNEYS

Eliminate
Drunk Driving



Help Eliminate Drunk Driving In Washington State!

Join Our Walk Team *Or* Make A Donation To MADD Washington!

Our firm is proud to represent those who are seeking justice for the harms and losses they suffered because of an impaired driver. But we also want to do everything we can to make Washington State roads and highways safer by supporting **Mothers Against Drunk Driving** (MADD)'s mission to eliminate drunk driving.

As you probably know, our firm is a strong supporter MADD's Washington State chapter. But you may not know that attorney Chris Davis' wife Mischelle, our Director of Operations, is also the current chair of MADD's Washington State Advisory Board.

For the fifth consecutive year, **Davis Law Group** is sponsoring the **WalkLikeMADD** non-competitive 5K walk. This year's walk is being held on October 10th at Greenlake. As in years past, we have formed our own team that will walk on the day of the event and is raising money to help MADD reach its fundraising goal.

We would like to personally invite you, your family, and friends to participate in the **WalkLikeMADD** event with us. Please join our team. We would be thrilled to have you **WalkLikeMADD** with us on October 11th. Or if you can't be there you can register as a 'virtual walker' or make a small donation to support MADD.

To join our team or make a donation to MADD visit:

<http://www.walklikemadd.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.participant&participantID=13002>



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PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

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