

Shannon Law Group, P.C.

Where Compassion Meets Justice

Play It Safe with a Post-Accident Medical Checkup

It's not just major, violent auto collisions that lead to injuries to drivers and passengers. Seemingly minor fender-benders can cause significant injury, too.

Injuries sustained from an auto crash might not be noticed initially—sometimes for hours, days, even weeks—for a variety of reasons. A car crash induces a rush of adrenaline and endorphins, chemicals that raise a person's energy level and frequently block pain. Once the "high" dissipates, pain may kick in.

Soft-tissue injuries cause harm to tendons, muscles, and ligaments and are precipitated by sudden, jarring stops, and when bodies get tossed around inside the car. Whiplash injuries are common. Soft-tissue injury symptoms—pain, swelling, and reduced mobility—might not present themselves immediately, and injuries are not visible on X-rays.

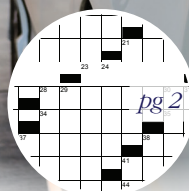
Concussions occur when the brain strikes the inside of the skull with great force. Some concussion symptoms are obvious from the outset. Others may be subtle and/or delayed.

An appointment with a medical doctor is highly recommended following a collision. He/she will assess your overall physical well-being, help you monitor symptoms of potential injuries, and document your condition, which is vital to possibly filing a future medical claim.

Procrastination diminishes your chances of success.

Insurance adjusters also know that injury symptoms are sometimes delayed. They may pressure you to agree to an early settlement, before symptoms have manifested themselves. If you sign a release and symptoms occur afterward, you can no longer ask the insurance company to pay for your treatment.

If you have been injured in an auto accident, contact an auto-accident attorney to protect your rights. •



AQ Technologies: The Answer To Your It Support Needs



This month we would like to highlight our partner in delivering effective IT Consulting and support services. For nearly ten years, Bob Nell of A.Q. Technologies has been the rock solid support for all of our IT needs, including on-going daily support, hardware and software purchases, employee training, back-up and forward thinking for what we need to provide excellent legal representation to our clients.

At the time we hired AQ, AQ was involved in a multi-year software development contract with a national retailer. Despite the heavy demand from their other clients, AQ still made house calls. I still remember Bob Nell coming to my house, setting up a home office for me, and explaining to my family how to use a router. AQ has been working for clients nationwide for almost 20 years. Their concentration of corporate customers is in the Chicagoland area. AQ opened operations in Hawaii in 2013 and services clients in several other states.

When asked to describe the perfect client arrangement, Bob told me that firms with 200 employees or less is a perfect fit for AQ. Their clients know that they can trust AQ to deliver, and AQ is also there to provide house calls to the company on an as-needed basis.

We highly recommend AQ. If you are interested in a great IT experience for your company, call Bob Nell at (312) 867-5400. You will be glad you did. •

February 2016 Important Dates

February 3 Feast of St. Blaise **February 7** – Super Bowl Sunday
February 10 – Ash Wednesday **February 12** – Abraham Lincoln's birthday
February 20 – Marquette basketball vs. DePaul **February 29** – Leap Day

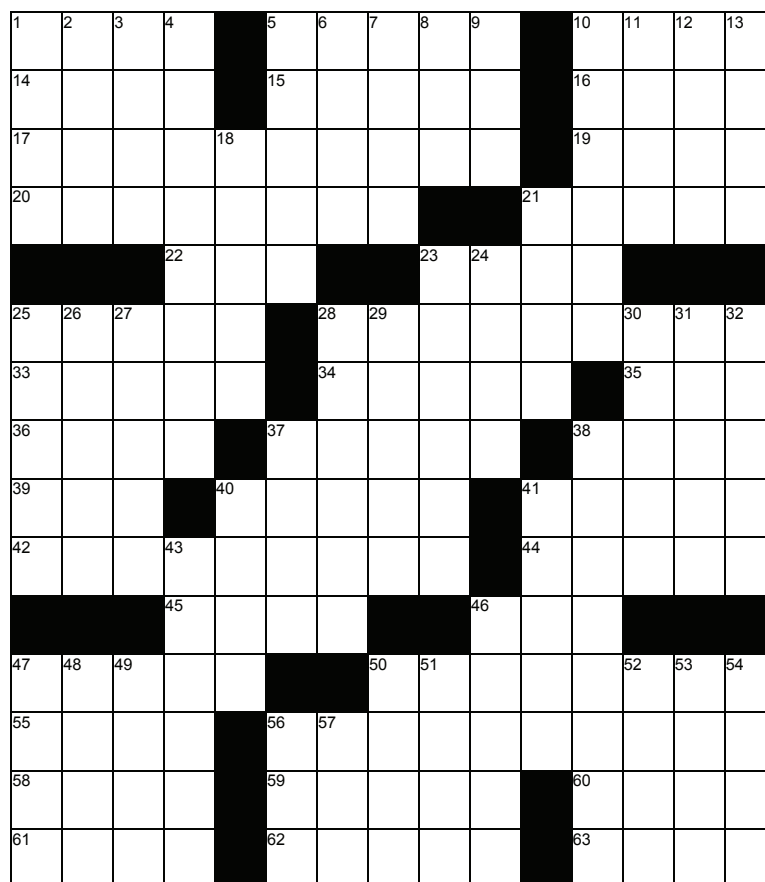
Across

- 1: Stepped on it
- 5: Up in the air
- 10: Ancient Egyptian emblems
- 14: Don
- 15: Boom box, e.g.
- 16: Bask in a bath
- 17: Appraisal
- 19: Places
- 20: Source of French fries
- 21: Gas holders
- 22: American voters before 1920
- 23: Movie detective Charlie
- 25: Balance sheet positive
- 28: Daily reading, for some
- 33: Tall-tale tellers
- 34: Blokes
- 35: Multiplex choices, for short
- 36: Vexes
- 37: Geezers
- 38: Weight
- 39: Apiary occupant
- 40: Place for a summer home
- 41: More with it
- 42: Employs glass wool

- 44: Monster with a head for multiplication and then some
- 45: Positions
- 46: Faux follower
- 47: Crater creator
- 50: Sleeping car feature
- 55: Take pleasure in
- 56: Fancy pastry
- 58: Fail to include
- 59: Spy
- 60: Soup herb
- 61: Outlaws
- 62: Cubicle fixtures
- 63: Tipplers

Down

- 1: Give this for that
- 2: Colombian coin
- 3: Right, on the map
- 4: Pie-in-the-sky types
- 5: Match play?
- 6: Like some excuses
- 7: Tributes in verse
- 8: Five-dollar bill
- 9: Little one
- 10: Like italics
- 11: Any day now
- 12: Word with animal or a punch
- 13: Goes downhill fast?
- 18: Manuscript markings
- 21: Tune for lights out
- 23: Jalopies
- 24: Hula rotators
- 25: Cover story
- 26: Cop show sound effect
- 27: 'Gracious ___ alive!'
- 28: Darts about
- 29: Allowance-earning task, perhaps
- 30: Turn topsy-turvy
- 31: More plentiful
- 32: Old newsboy's call
- 37: On-line discussion
- 38: Yokels
- 40: Slatern
- 41: False things
- 43: Capsizes
- 46: Stations
- 47: Amorphous lump
- 48: Peru's capital
- 49: Analogous
- 50: St. and ave.
- 51: Sty cry
- 52: Group of three
- 53: Lean
- 54: They get into sushi
- 56: Goalie's protection
- 57: Historical period



Answers on page four.

New Illinois Laws on the Books for 2016

COMMERCIAL DRIVERS

New penalties exist for commercial drivers and the employers who violate certain transportation and safety rules (PA 99-0291). Drivers or employers who willfully violate the rules are now guilty of a class 3 felony if the violation results in a crash that causes great bodily harm, permanent disability or disfigurement, or death to another person.

TRAFFIC OFFENSES

New aggravated speeding offenses have been created for speeding 26 or more mph over the posted speed limit in a construction, maintenance or school zone (PA 99-0212).

People who receive a second DUI within 5 years will be required to install breathalyzers in their work and personal vehicles and drive with a restricted driving permit for 5 years (PA 99-0483).

HONORING MILITARY PERSONNEL

State flags must now fly at half-staff when an Illinois resident dies during training for active military duty (PA 99-0372).

SENTENCING MINORS

Illinois has ended mandatory life sentences for minors. The Legislature also added a number of factors the Court is to consider when sentencing an individual who was 18 at the time of the offense (PA 99-0069).

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Pet owners can now be charged with a class A misdemeanor for leaving a cat or dog in extreme weather conditions. If a cat or dog is injured or dies as a result of exposure, the owners can be charged \$2,500 or sentenced up to a year in jail if they are convicted (PA 99-0311).

State Pie

Pumpkin pie is now the official state pie of Illinois (PA 99-036).

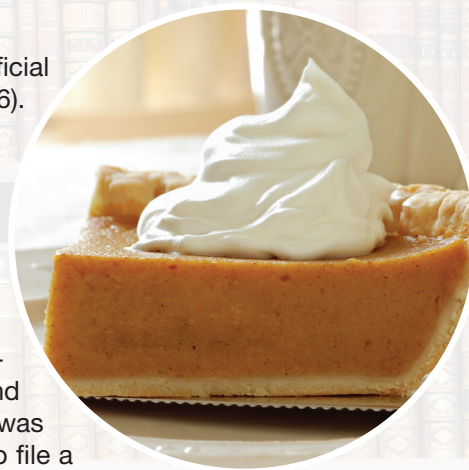
Criminal Financial Exploitation of an Elderly Person or Person with a Disability

Effective January 1, 2016, the Illinois statute that makes it a crime to financially exploit the elderly and people with disabilities was amended to allow victims to file a civil lawsuit under the criminal statute.

Prior to this amendment, victims had to wait for the person to be charged with the crime to pursue civil remedies. However, victims NOW have the authority under the criminal statute to file a civil suit absent criminal charges.

Civil liability damages have also been increased under this statute. NOW, the defendant is not only liable for reasonable attorney fees and court costs, but also has to pay TRIPLE the value of what they obtained from the victim.

To be a victim of this crime, the person has to be an elderly person or a person with a disability. This means that the person either has to be over the age of 60 when the crime occurs or a person who suffers from a physical or mental impairment resulting from disease, injury, functional disorder or congenital condition that impairs the individual's mental or physical ability to independently manage his or her property or financial resources. •



Traumatic Brain Injuries

Because of the heightened coverage of the NFL and NHL concussion lawsuits, concussions have been thrust into public consciousness in recent months. According to the Mayo Clinic, a concussion is a traumatic brain injury (TBI) that alters the way your brain functions. Concussions are just one type of TBI that can have significant effects on your cognitive abilities. TBIs can arise from many different types of accidents, such as car crashes, slip and fall accidents, and sports injuries.

People who engage in contact sports, such as football, hockey, or rugby, are at a greater risk of developing a traumatic brain injury. Athletes are more likely than any other segment of society to get a second concussion before an existing concussion has fully healed. This can lead to permanent, irreversible brain injury that can diminish your quality of life forever. What's worse, your injury may prevent you from engaging in once-loved sports and activities in the future

One difficulty in recognizing the effects of a TBI is that there is no injury visible to the naked eye. If you believe that you have received any type of brain trauma, you should seek medical attention immediately. A doctor can order a CAT scan to fully assess the extent of your injuries. Symptoms of a traumatic brain injury may include brief loss of consciousness, clouded thinking, dizziness, and headaches. Even if you aren't experiencing any symptoms, it is a good idea to visit your doctor just to be safe.

Shannon Law Group, P.C. handles traumatic brain injury cases in Illinois courts and in other courts throughout the country. •

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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.



Motorcycle Crashes

Motorcycle crashes often result in devastating, catastrophic injuries that can change your life forever. Motorcyclists involved in crashes with cars, SUVs, and trucks often suffer brain injury, spinal cord injury, orthopedic injuries, permanent scars, and burn injuries that can prevent them from returning to work and supporting their family. Victims of negligence are entitled to be compensated for their medical bills, lost wages and earning capacity, physical pain and scarring, and loss of a normal life due to the crash. The public is often prejudiced against motorcycle operators assuming that the motorcyclist

must have been speeding or driving recklessly. This prejudice must be confronted by thorough investigation.

We recently resolved a serious injury motorcycle case where a truck pulling a trailer abruptly cut off our client's lane of traffic. Our client did everything he could to avoid the crash. Our investigation revealed that the defendant driver was not even licensed to drive such a big trailer. Our client lost his job because he could not return to his manual labor work. Upon being hired, we went right to work to fully investigate the true facts of the crash. These type of cases require immediate attention and investigation. We can help you assess the full value of your losses in order to present an accurate claim for damages to a jury. ●

Solution (Reversed)

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