



Legal News

August 2009

Volume 1, Issue 2

IN THIS ISSUE

New Office Location; A Note About Workers' Compensation?

Page 1

Ask the Attorney Free Book Offer

Page 2

Family Focus: Child Safety

Page 3

This Month in History

Page 4

Expanding Our Offices To Serve You Better;

Shelly Leeke Law Firm opens new office in Goose Creek

Welcome to the second edition of Shelly Leeke Law Firm's Legal newsletter. This month, I wanted to start off by giving you some exciting firm news. As many of our readers know, I have long awaited the opportunity to expand the firm to help even more accident victims. I am happy to announce that we have done just that. On August 3rd, our new principal office will open at 103 Laurel Ave., Goose Creek, SC 29445, (corner of Laurel Avenue and 176/St. James Avenue). All of our contact numbers and emails will stay the same. We will still have the Mt. Pleasant address by appointment, and will be happy to meet clients at either location. I welcome you to stop by our new office and truly hope that you will. In addition to offering accident victims a wealth of information, I hope you will find our new location to be a warm and welcoming atmosphere. So feel free to stop in, even if you do not currently have a legal question, we'd love to see you! You can pick from our several free informational reports and don't forget pick up your copy of The South Carolina Accident Book while you're here.



Confused About Workers' Compensation?

Workers' Compensation is a set of laws that were created to protect injured workers. The law holds employers accountable for injuries, regardless of fault. Unlike other injuries, if you suffer a work injury, you are not required to prove your employer caused the injury, and your employer cannot use negligence as a basis for denying your claim. Nevertheless, just like any injury claim, workers' compensation claims can be complicated and confusing. With over four million people injured on the job each year in the United States, it is important to make sure you know your rights should you become the victim of an unfortunate work injury.

Common workplace injuries include:

- Injuries from a fall
- Injuries from falling objects
- Burns
- Auto accidents while on the job
- Occupational diseases from exposure to toxins or chemicals
- Repetitive movement injuries

If you are injured at work, the first thing you should do is report the injury to your employer. You have a limited amount of time to report the injury or you may lose your right to benefits. If you suffer a serious injury, you could face permanent impairment or work restrictions, so you should contact an attorney immediately to discuss your rights. Your employer's insurance company represents your employer, not you, and they will certainly look for any reason to reject your claim. Even though you may represent yourself and request a claim hearing on your own if your claim is denied, be aware that the insurance will hire an attorney, so it is certainly best to have your rights protected by an experienced work injury attorney. If you have been injured and work and need to know your rights, we will provide you with a complimentary evaluation of your claim. Just call our office at 843-297-8485.

Two Locations To Serve You:

Goose Creek

103 Laurel Avenue
Goose Creek, SC 29445

Mt. Pleasant

222 W. Coleman Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464

Tel: 843-297-8485

Toll-Free:

877-533-1046

Fax: 843-297-8485

E-mail:

Info@LeekeLaw.com

Practice Areas:

- Personal Injury
- Auto accidents
- Work Injuries
- Death Accidents
- Truck accidents
- And More...

Thank You! We Appreciate Your Referrals.

Ask The Attorney: Accident Law

Question: *I was in a car wreck and the insurance adjustor called me asking for a recorded statement. Should I talk to the adjustor?*

Answer: No matter how sincere the adjustor may seem, **do not** give the adjustor a recorded statement. I had yet another client tell me recently that they were told by the other driver's insurance company that they would not settle the property damage or injury claim if they did not get a recorded statement. This is simply not true. You have no obligation

to give a recorded statement to the adjustor.

The recorded statement will only hurt your injury claim. Any inconsistencies in the statement may be used to deny or lowball your claim. Remember, you are not under any obligation to the other party's insurance company. If you have an attorney, give the adjustor the name of your attorney and tell him or her to direct all further correspondence to your attorney.

If you do not have an attorney but plan to hire one, then ask the adjustor for his or her name, telephone number and claim number and give the information to the attorney at your first meeting.

Remember, the adjustor's job is **not** to help you. Her job is to help the insurance company save money. For more informa-

tion on this topic and much more helpful accident information, get your free copy of The South Carolina Accident Book by calling or emailing the office. Ask for "the accident book" and we'll make sure you get this valuable information, free!

If you have a question for Ask The Attorney just send it to Info@LeekeLaw.com and put "Ask The Attorney" in the subject line. Or if you need to speak with a qualified personal injury attorney you can call 843-297-8485 to schedule a FREE consultation..



Shelly M. Leeke
Attorney At Law

RECENT CASES & VERDICTS: Tazers, Falling Objects & Obesity

Policeman Teases and Tazers Waffle House Employee:

A Waffle House waiter in Georgia says he was serving police officers breakfast when one of the officers tazered him. The officer says he was just trying to "scare him a little bit." The officer may have a real scare himself now. He has been criminally charged with battery and violating his oath as an officer, and the

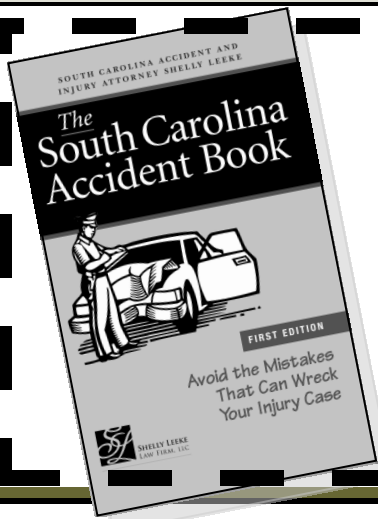
waiter filed a civil suit for damages from the incident.

Home Depot Shoppers Beware of Falling Objects:

A man and his wife were awarded \$1.5 million dollars for neck and spine injuries the man suffered when a pallet of plywood fell from a forklift, trapping him underneath. This isn't the first time Home Depot has been sued for damages from falling objects in the store.

South Carolina Mom Faces Criminal Charges Stemming From Teen Son's Obesity:

A Travelers Rest woman faces charges and her 14 year old son is now in foster care. The Department of Social Services says the charges are based on the woman's failure to meet the child's medical needs. The case has gotten national coverage and raises a controversial issue that has already come up in other states—Should parents be legally accountable for a severely overweight child?



The Free Book That South Carolina Auto Accident Victims Can Rely On

Avoid the Mistakes That Can Wreck Your Injury Case

ORDER YOUR FREE COPY TODAY!1

Call: 843-297-8485 Or E-mail: Info@LeekeLaw.com
(put Accident Book in the Subject Line).

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, car accidents cases, medical malpractice, and insurance issues. It is not intended to be legal advice and does not constitute attorney-client relationship. Every case is different.

FAMILY FOCUS: Child Safety

A Key Ingredient for Summer Fun

Summer time, one of our favorite times of the year, especially for kids. The one time of year they can play all day without the worries of homework and science projects. Unfortunately, with children spending much of their free time outdoors, the occurrence of accidental injuries skyrockets during summer months. Many of these injuries can be avoided by taking simple safety precautions.

Vehicle Safety: Always make sure car seats are properly installed and that children are properly secured in their car seats. It is estimated that at least 73 percent of car seats are installed incorrectly. Car crashes are the leading cause of death among kids in the U.S.

Heat Stroke: Never leave your child in a vehicle unattended. On average, 33 children die every summer due to heat stroke caused by being left in an unattended vehicle.

Pedestrian accidents. There is a 16 percent spike in child pedestrian deaths this time of year. Ten percent of pedestrian injuries occur in a driveway, so teach kids not to walk behind a vehicle that is running and be extra alert when backing up.

Falls: Falls bring nearly 8,000 kids to the ER a day. One easy way to prevent trips and falls is to trade the flip-flops and Crocs for sneakers. The majority of fall related injuries occur when children are unsupervised, so the best way to prevent an accidental injury is to keep an eye on the little ones.

Bike Safety: Bike accidents cause 267,000 child injuries every year. The best prevention is to ensure that your child is wearing a helmet that is properly secured. All helmets should meet the standards of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Look for a CPSC sticker inside the helmet.

Burns: While fireworks, barbecues and campfires can be a lot of fun, children can easily become victims of serious burn injuries caused by these activities. Most burn injuries occur after the fire has gone out. Always closely monitor your children around fires and hot areas, even if the flame has already died out. Remind kids that although the red and white coals may be pretty, they are dangerous.

Summer should be a relaxing and fun filled time. We are lucky enough to have the warm, sunny weather and beautiful beaches close by. So make your summer in the sun a safe one, by keeping a close eye on the little ones, and ensuring all of their protective equipment is working properly... and that they are wearing it!



Shelly Leeke's niece Jessica reminds all kids to wear your helmet and seatbelt, whether on four wheels or two.

Don't Miss Your Medical/Chiropractic/Specialist Appointments

If you have been injured in an accident, it is most important that you do not miss your scheduled medical, chiropractic, or medical specialist appointments. With hectic work schedules topped with the kids out of school, it is a busy time of year. However, your treatment plan is formed to help you return to your normal physical level of function. Your injuries could be made worse by failing to adhere to the course of treatment prescribed by your doctor.

As you know, insurance companies are looking for every excuse they can find to deny, delay, and defend against your injury claim. Please do not make their job easier by missing appointments or having a significant delay in seeking medical treatment after an accident. Not only are doctor's appointments important for your health, but failing to keep your appointments is a great excuse for the insurance company to say your injury was not serious or that you were not making doing your part to recover from your injuries.

COMMUNICATION POLICY: Generally Ms. Leeke does not take unscheduled phone calls. This allows her to focus and pay more attention to individual cases resulting in higher quality legal services. This policy also helps Ms. Leeke resolve cases more quickly. **This is a lot better than the endless game of "phone tag" played by most attorneys and businesses today.** To schedule a phone call or in-person appointment with Ms. Leeke call 843-297-8485.



SHELLY LEEKE
LAW FIRM, LLC

103 Laurel Avenue
Goose Creek, SC 29445

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Request your
FREE copy of the
popular book
South Carolina
accident victims
rely on.**

See page 2



This Month in History

While August may not have any official holidays, some pretty significant events have occurred during this summer month. Here are a just a few:

Did you Know?

August 3, 1492: Christopher Columbus set sail from Spain with three ships, the *Nina*, *Pinta* and *Santa Maria*.

August 5, 1861: President Abraham Lincoln signed first Federal income tax law

August 4, 1901: Legendary Jazz trumpet player Louis Armstrong, known as "Satchmo," was born in New Orleans, Louisiana.

August 26, 1920: The 19th Amendment was adopted, giving women the constitutionally-protected right to vote.

August 28, 1963: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made his now-famous *I Have a Dream* speech in Washington, DC. Over 250,000 people were in attendance.

August 29, 2005: Hurricane Katrina Struck the Gulf Coast of Louisiana, Florida, Alabama & Mississippi resulting in one of the nation's most devastating natural disasters.

**Look Inside
This Issue**



- ▶ **FEATURE STORY:** What Exactly is Workers' Compensation *Page 1*
- ▶ **Ask The Attorney:** Accident Law *Page 2*
- ▶ **Child Summer Safety** *Page 3*
- ▶ **This Month in History** *Page 4*

**We care enough to send you
the REAL DEAL!**

Our newsletter is **100% home-grown** ...unlike other firms that send clients, associates, and friends an impersonal newsletter that has been created by a service. Our newsletter is written by us!

