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A Personal Injury Law Firm

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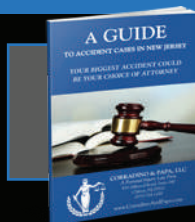
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THE COMPLEXITIES OF school bus accident claims

For children injured in school bus accidents for which the school district may be at fault, liability and compensation issues can be trickier than normal. For example, a public school is considered part of the local government. Because a government entity is involved, you are required to send the school district—within a short time frame—a “notice of claim,” which alerts them to your claim and offers them a chance to respond. If they deny your claim (likely), you are free to file a lawsuit in civil court to recover compensation. In addition, recovery may be limited, and punitive damages are generally off the table.



A school district is typically responsible for the actions of its employees. However, if a school bus driver is found guilty of an egregious action, such as driving under the influence, he/she may be fully liable for damages. If the school district had prior knowledge of similar incidents, they may share liability.

When a private transportation company is hired by a school district to bus students, the company may be responsible for all injuries sustained in an accident, or at least partially responsible. School bus owners must also properly inspect, repair, and maintain their vehicles.

Other potential liable parties in a school bus crash include manufacturers of defective vehicle parts; the local or state government (e.g., failing to fix a hazardous road condition or faulty traffic signal); and other drivers who are negligent in their actions.

The stakes are high in school bus accident cases. If your child has been injured due to negligence, contact a school bus accident attorney to protect their rights. ■

Your Biggest Accident Could Be Your Choice of Attorney

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HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUNG DRIVERS ON THE ROAD DURING back-to-school season



Back-to-school season is in full swing, and that means high school juniors and seniors will be starting driver's ed and venturing out onto local roads.

Let's face it; getting a driver's license is one of the biggest milestones in a teenager's young adult life. It means freedom, independence, and responsibility. The best and safest drivers on the road all have years of driving experience, something that, by nature, a teenager can't have. As a result, it is young drivers who make the most mistakes and unintentionally endanger the most lives on the road.

In fact, driving teens (ages 16-19) are 3 times as likely to be involved in a fatal crash than any other age group. Despite being only 14% of the population, teen drivers are involved in 30% of the costs of all motor vehicle injuries. Also, teens are even more likely to cause a crash if they are driving with teen passengers or if it's their first month with their licenses. Plus, we all know how easily teens are distracted in the smartphone age!

This should all make sense, really—without driving experience, young drivers are more likely to misjudge situations, forget important traffic laws, and miscalculate the size and speed of their cars.

Thankfully, there are steps you can take to ensure that you and your loved ones are properly taken care of in the event of an unfortunate, unavoidable accident. Aside from the fundamentals (wear your seatbelt, drive the speed limit, be alert, and drive defensively), you should also make sure that you have full Uninsured Motorist Coverage, especially with the sheer amount of uninsured drivers on the road.

Bottom line—should an accident happen with an uninsured driver, you will need a comprehensive uninsured motorist plan from your insurance company (not just the bare minimum) to recover fully. Trust us, it's easier to ask these questions beforehand than after the fact. ■

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pain and suffering FROM A LEGAL STANDPOINT

Some businesses have begun using blue lights to discourage the injection of heroin and other opioids in their restrooms. The idea is that the blue light makes it more difficult for users to see their veins and will force them to go elsewhere.

Public restrooms at convenience stores, supermarkets, big-box stores, and fast-food restaurants are becoming popular haunts for opioid addicts to shoot up quickly to avoid the nasty withdrawal symptoms associated with opioid usage. They're isolated, easily accessible, and free of security cameras. But incidents of customers and employees finding dirty hypodermic needles scattered about and people passed out—or dead—from overdoses have become commonplace in some areas, prompting business owners to take action.

Early results have been encouraging. Two convenience-store chains, Turkey Hill Minit Markets and Sheetz, have reported dramatic reductions in restroom opioid incidents since installing blue lights in some store restrooms in late 2017.

Opponents of the blue-light experiment believe that desperate opioid users will still inject themselves, even in poor lighting, to avoid withdrawal symptoms. They contend that blue light will make the situation even more dangerous and stigmatize those in the grip of addiction. They also fear that some users might seek quick opioid fixes at less discreet places, such as playgrounds or parks.

The opioid epidemic has devastated many families from every region of the country and all strata of society. Businesses have been affected, too, and many are seeking to strike the right balance between being open and inviting to their customers while maintaining their health and safety. ■



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THIS COULD WELL BE THE

single most important type of auto insurance you carry (And You Probably Don't Have Nearly Enough of It)

We regularly meet with potential clients who have been seriously injured in a car wreck. Their stories of how the accident unfolded and the injuries they sustained can be truly heartbreaking, especially when the driver who hit them has little or no insurance.

When this is the case, one of the first questions we ask is, "What does your own auto insurance look like? Are you fully insured?" Invariably, their response is, "Yes, I'm fully covered."

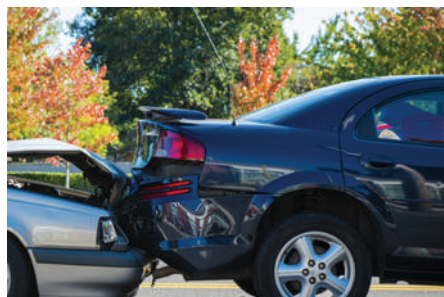
The reality, though, is usually quite different, since the vast majority of accident victims (and most drivers for that matter) don't have nearly enough of what is known as Uninsured or Underinsured Motorist Coverage (UM/UIM).

Unlike liability coverage, which insures you if you injure someone else in an accident, UM/UIM coverage protects you in the event that the person who hit and injured you has little or no insurance.

Problem is, since so many drivers carry the bare minimum in liability coverage or don't have any insurance at all, you're left in a disastrous situation if you are hit by one of them and you or your passengers suffer serious injuries. Any sort of a hospital stay, surgeries or ongoing medical care can easily run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Here's the real kicker—UM/UIM coverage is actually very inexpensive. In fact, a \$1,000,000 UM/UIM policy usually isn't that much more per month than a \$25,000 policy. So, do what you can to protect yourself and your family—make sure you are carrying a high amount of UM/UIM coverage on your policy.

If you have any questions about your auto insurance and the coverage you have in place, please don't hesitate to call our office. ■



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September 2018 – Important Dates

September 3 — Labor Day September 10 — Rosh Hashanah (begins at sunset, Sept. 9)

September 11 — Patriot Day September 19 — Yom Kippur (begins at sunset, Sept. 18)

September 22 — First Day of Autumn

BUSY WEEKNIGHT

tomato basil soup

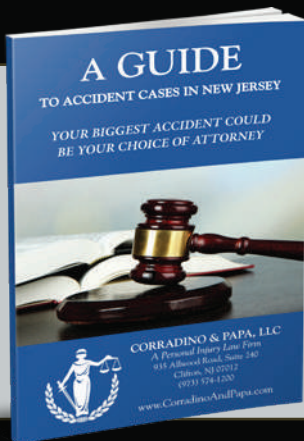


1 large red onion, diced
1 tablespoon minced ginger
1 tablespoon brown sugar
4 cups whole Roma tomatoes, diced
5 cups chicken stock
1 cup picked basil leaves
Salt and black pepper, to taste

In a large saucepan and a little oil, caramelize the onions, ginger and sugar. Add the tomatoes and bring to a simmer. Season with salt and pepper. Add the stock and simmer on low heat until very soft, at least 20 minutes. Add the basil and puree. Season with salt and pepper, to taste ■

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FREE BOOK

Get Jack Corradino and Robert Papa's *New Ultimate Guide to Accident Cases in NJ*, written by Jack and RC. It will explain "Why your biggest accident could be your choice of attorney", and what to do in the event you are injured.

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Workers' Compensation
Medical Malpractice
Construction Accidents
Motor Vehicle Accidents
Product Liability
Wrongful Death
PIP Arbitration**

Quote of the Month: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." —Mark Twain

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.

THE MANY FORMS OF medical malpractice

Medical malpractice occurs when a medical practitioner does not exercise the degree of care, skill, or ability exercised under similar conditions and like circumstances by other reasonable medical practitioners.

Victims of medical malpractice may pay the price with permanent impairment and disability, dramatic reductions in quality of life, and loss of life.

It is estimated that over 98,000 hospital patients are killed by preventable medical errors each year—and that doesn't include the number of medical malpractice-related deaths occurring away from the hospital.

A prevalent type of medical malpractice is incorrect administration of medication. The Institute of Medicine estimates that in excess of 1.5 million patients suffer harm each year due to medication errors. The correct medication, the precise amount and frequency, the proper administration, and delivery to the right person are essential. Adverse drug reactions and interactions play a significant role as well.

Birth injuries—too many of them permanent—are sometimes caused by malpractice. What should be a joyous time can quickly turn tragic when obstetric mistakes and improper fetal monitoring take place.

Errors in diagnosis and delayed diagnosis can lead to dire consequences. Conditions are allowed to deteriorate and/or spread (in the case of cancer). Some mistakes are due to human error; others may be attributed to faulty equipment.

Surgical mistakes can lead to permanent, severe harm, and also death. Errors causing paralysis or loss of bodily function, surgery performed on the wrong body part, and anesthesia errors are just the tip of the iceberg.

Medical malpractice comes in many other forms as well. If you believe you or a family member may have been the victim of medical malpractice, contact our office so that we can help you. ■

