

HAPPY  
*Holidays*



**Corradino & Papa, LLC**

*A Personal Injury Law Firm*

**973-574-1200 • CorradinoandPapa.com**

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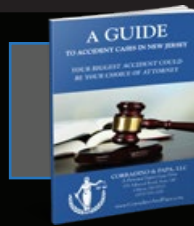
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## MAKE ONLINE HOLIDAY SHOPPING more secure

According to the credit bureau Experian, 43 percent of online-shopping identity theft in 2018 occurred during the holiday season. Digging out from identity theft — financially and emotionally — can be a nightmare. Here are some ways to shop online more safely.

**Steer clear of public Wi-Fi.** It's easy for hackers to intercept personal data you send and receive. If you insist, install a VPN (virtual private network) on your device, which encrypts information to befuddle would-be cyberthieves.

**Create strong, unique passwords.** Use at least 10 characters with a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols; avoid incorporating personal information (e.g., birth dates, kids' names, etc.); don't use the same password for multiple accounts; and utilize a password manager app to store and secure passwords.

**Only shop on SSL-certified online shopping sites,** which are identified by the "https" in their web addresses (the "s" stands for "secure") and the lock symbol in the address bar. These sites employ encryption to safeguard your information.

**Download mobile shopping apps from reputable stores only,** such as Google Play, the App Store, the Amazon App Store, and Galaxy Apps. Unfamiliar apps may contain malicious software.

**Beware of phishing emails/texts from unknown senders with special offers too good to be true.** Don't click on links, and don't open attachments — viruses, fake websites, etc.

**Closely monitor all financial accounts,** and sign up for email/text alerts.

Victims of identity theft should immediately contact the credit bureaus Equifax, TransUnion, and Experian; creditors (credit card providers, utilities, cable company, etc.); financial institutions; and law enforcement officials.

Tracking down identity thieves can be challenging, but third parties may have been negligent by failing to properly protect personal information. If you fall prey to identity theft, contact our office for guidance. ■



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# COVID-19'S IMPACT ON nursing home abuse

This past spring, in order to quell the COVID-19 devastation in nursing homes, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued health and safety guidelines. Among them were strict limitations on in-person visitations, with states having the final word.

Initially, phone calls, videoconferencing, FaceTiming/Skyping, and letters were typically the only forms of permissible contact. Options eventually expanded to "window visits" and socially distanced outdoor visits at some nursing homes.

In-person family member visitations have always been a bulwark against nursing home abuse/neglect, but COVID-19 has temporarily sidelined or interrupted that line of defense. Though COVID-19 has muddied the waters, vigilant family members may still be able to detect signs of abuse through the above-mentioned means of communication. Be alert for signs of abuse/neglect, such as if your loved one ...

- withdraws from family or friends.
- doesn't respond to questions about their care.
- expresses fear of nursing home staff.
- exhibits drastic behavioral changes.
- displays unexplained weight loss, poor personal hygiene, or other changes in physical appearance.

In addition, if the nursing home restricts your access to speak with your loved one or won't permit private conversations, consider it a potential red flag.

In September, the CMS issued guidelines for indoor visits if protocols are followed and certain criteria are met, having recognized the emotional and mental-health toll of resident isolation. However, not all states or regions will be able to meet the criteria, which means visitations will continue to be hindered.

COVID-19 has made life difficult on many fronts. If you suspect your loved one is a victim of nursing home abuse/neglect, report it to state protective services and contact [Corradino & Papa, LLC](#) to protect their rights. ■

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## '... to grandmother's house we go'



The holiday season is in full swing, and that means drivers should take extra precautions when heading out. According to AAA, roughly 115 million Americans will be doing holiday-related traveling from December 21 through New Year's Day. Long-distance trips (50+ miles) rise by 23 percent compared to other days of the year (Bureau of Transportation Statistics).

Increased traffic volume inevitably leads to a rise in accidents, injuries, and fatalities, but other factors come into play as well. Alcohol, unfortunately, is a problem year-round, but it's heightened with holiday festivities. A designated driver, rideshare service, or taxi is critical for those who have imbibed excessively.

Aggressive driving and acts of road rage are also more frequent over the holidays. Don't respond to aggressive drivers verbally or with gestures, which can escalate the situation. To keep your own blood from boiling, allow plenty of time to reach your destination (which also diminishes the temptation of speeding), check ahead for construction situations, avoid times of heaviest traffic if possible, and take a deep breath or two.

Winter weather and road conditions can be unpredictable. Snow, sleet, black ice, freezing rain, and refrozen melt-off can put a damper on traveling; short days don't help either. Check the weather forecast when planning your trip, and make sure your vehicle is properly maintained to minimize danger (good tires, topped-off washer fluid, properly functioning lights/signals, etc.).

In addition, prioritize sleep the night before traveling, take breaks on long trips, always wear seatbelts, never text while driving, and drive defensively.

If you are injured by a negligent driver this holiday season (or anytime), [Corradino & Papa, LLC](#) to protect your rights. ■

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# spotlight of the month

This Beauty is a member of Gillians family. Her name is Nala and she is a Maine Coon who joined our family going on two years ago. Maine Coons are one of the most popular cat breeds in the United States. Their popularity is due to their large size, intelligence, silky coat and disposition. Maine Coon's are often characterized as "gentle giants" with "dog like" characteristics. Nala is very playful, gentle, and affectionate. It takes this breed four to five years to reach their full-grown status, so she is still growing. Nala is basically a kitten in a cat-suit. ■

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## skeletons in your closet?



It's a scenario we see all too often:

Let's say you're involved in a wreck that wasn't your fault, suffered some pretty serious injuries, and are filing a personal injury claim to receive compensation for those injuries.

Now, let's also say that you were in an accident years ago or have some old, pre-existing injuries or conditions that you feel could hurt your claim, so you're thinking about withholding that information from your lawyer.

We've got some absolutely critical advice for you: **DON'T DO IT!**

The reason why is that you can be sure that the insurance company will be digging into your past to discover any old accidents or injuries, and trust us, their investigators will find out that information and they will use it against you to minimize or deny your claim altogether.

The good news is that if you share that information with your lawyer right from the start, he or she can be completely prepared to deal with those kinds of issues and can build the strongest case possible for you.

Conversely, if the insurance company is the first one to find out about those old injuries and accidents and not your lawyer, your case is in big trouble.

So, do yourself a favor; if you have some so-called "skeletons in the closet," just be upfront with your lawyer and tell him or her everything that could be relevant to your case.

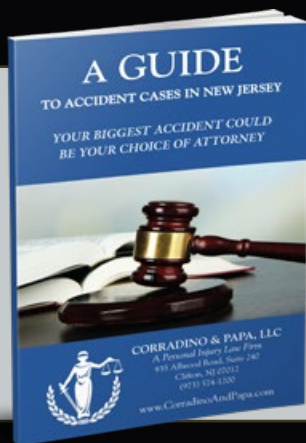
Give [Corradino & Papa, LLC](#) the best chance to secure fair and full compensation for your injuries. ■

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### December 2020 – Mark Your Calendars

Dec. 1 – Eat a Red Apple Day    Dec. 4 – Santa's List Day    Dec. 8 – National Brownie Day  
Dec. 16 – Chocolate-Covered Anything Day    Dec. 21 – Crossword Puzzle Day  
Dec. 23 – Festivus: Airing of grievances    Dec. 27 – Fruitcake Day





## 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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**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

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# jam thumbprints cookies

## Ingredients

- 1 3/4 c. all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 3/4 c. (1 1/2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1/2 c. granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1/3 c. assorted jams, for filling cookies

## Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350° and line two baking sheets with parchment. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt.
2. In another bowl, beat butter and sugar until pale and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Beat in egg and vanilla, then add dry ingredients in two batches until incorporated.
3. Using a small cookie scoop, scoop 1" balls onto prepared baking sheets. Press a thumbprint into center of each ball, 1/2" deep. Fill with a small spoonful of jam.
4. Bake until edges of cookies are golden, 13 to 14 minutes. Cool on baking sheets before serving. ■

