

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2024 Edition



Personal Injury Attorney
*Years of Experience Helping South Florida
Accident Victims*



Greetings and a very happy new year! We hope you've had a joyous festive season filled with well deserved rest and memory making. As we reflect on the year that past and look forward to the upcoming year in anticipation, we hope that you reach your goals and fulfill your dreams. We look forward to sharing more insightful and useful information and tips with you this year.

Thank you for reading our newsletters, if you missed any of our previous issues, they're available on our website ->->-> [here.](#)

Our Website

Have you seen our website recently? We have been busy adding new articles. Let us know what topics you'd like for us to cover in the future. and frequently asked questions you have.

Visit our website at smartlawpa.com to see how we can help you with your personal injury claim.

New Year, New Laws

As we usher in 2024, a series of important legislative updates come into effect:

Expanded 'Move Over' Law: Safety on the roads gets a boost in 2024. Providing space for stopped vehicles like police cars and ambulances isn't just courteous—it's law. Now, this law will include disabled vehicles on the side of the road that have their flashers on. A fine of up to \$158 enforces this rule, so let's keep our roads safer for everyone.



Tax-Free Back-to-School Shopping: Enjoy a tax break on school essentials until January 14. From tech to textbooks, prepare for the school year without the added sales tax on select items.

Advance Adventure Planning: Florida's natural wonders await, and now residents can book state park accommodations 11 months ahead. Non-residents can join the fun 10 months prior to their visit.

Lactation Spaces in Courthouses: Supporting new mothers, courthouses statewide will provide lactation spaces—because everyone deserves comfort and privacy.

KidCare Coverage Adjustments: The KidCare program broadens, offering tiered premiums that consider household incomes so more Florida families can access health care.

As Floridians, these changes reflect our values: safety, education, nature, family, and health. Stay informed and make the most of these new provisions.

Understanding Your Insurance Coverage



Personal Injury Protection (PIP) in Florida is a vital piece of the puzzle in your insurance portfolio as we sail into the renewal season. Here's a snapshot of what PIP means for you:

Rapid Medical Support: PIP kicks in fast, covering medical bills upfront, regardless of fault. It's like having a financial first-aid kit for emergencies.

Income Protection: Injuries can sideline you from work, but PIP steps up to the plate, replacing lost wages so your financial health keeps pace with your physical recovery.

Compassionate Benefits: In life's most challenging moments, such as the loss of a loved one, PIP extends its support, providing a monetary buffer to families navigating their loss. Ring in this new year with a policy review—assess your PIP coverage with fresh eyes. Ensure your PIP coverage is robust, tailored, and ready to serve when you need it most.

Recipe Corner

Winter Comfort Food - Easy Beef and Vegetable Stew



Ingredients:

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| -1 pound beef stew meat, cubed | -1 can (14.5 ounces) diced tomatoes |
| -2 tablespoons vegetable oil | -2 cups beef broth |
| -1 medium onion, chopped | -1 teaspoon dried thyme |
| -2 carrots, peeled and sliced | -1 bay leaf |
| -2 celery stalks, sliced | -2 potatoes, peeled and diced |
| -3 garlic cloves, minced | -1 cup frozen peas |

Instructions:

1. Add salt and pepper to season the beef stew meat.
2. Heat the oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Add the beef and cook until it is brown on all sides.
3. Remove and set aside.
4. In the same pot, add onion, carrots, and celery. Cook until the vegetables begin to soften, about 5 minutes.
5. Add garlic and cook for an additional minute.
6. Return beef to the pot. Add diced tomatoes, beef broth, thyme, and bay leaf. Bring to a boil.
7. Reduce the heat to a simmer, cover, and cook for 1 hour, or until the beef is tender.
8. Add the diced potatoes and continue to cook until the potatoes are tender, about 20-30 minutes.
9. Stir in the frozen peas and cook for an additional 5 minutes.
10. Remove the bay leaf and serve hot.

A Fresh Start: Health Essentials for the New Year

Welcome the year with simple, impactful health goals. Here are some ways you can get there:

Eat smart: Diversity on your plate leads to vitality. Greens, grains, and proteins are your friends.

Drink up: Water—don't underestimate it. It powers your cells, curbs hunger, and keeps you alert.

Rest well: Sleep isn't a luxury; it's a must. Seven hours can make or break your day.

Move more: Find your groove. Dance, run, or just stretch—keep it regular.

Pause daily: Life's fast. Your breaths shouldn't be. Take a minute, slow down, and breathe deeply.

This year, let's strip health down to these basics. A few good habits, practiced consistently, can redefine well-being.

Legal Health: Annual Check-Up Reminder

Just as you'd schedule a physical exam, it's wise to give your legal affairs the same attention. This year, take time to:

Review Your Will: Ensure it reflects your current wishes and family structure.

Update Beneficiaries: Life changes—so should your policy details.

Power of Attorney: Confirm your designations are up-to-date.

A yearly legal review keeps your affairs in order, offering peace of mind. Consider this your nudge to pencil in a legal health day.

Upcoming Events in Plantation, Florida



Rock The Park Free Concert Series

Completely Unchained: The Ultimate Tribute to Van Halen

Pine Island Park, Pine Island, FL

01/05/2024 at 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

22nd Annual Doggie-Palooza

Happy Trails Dog Park at Seminole Park, Plantation, FL

01/27/2024 at 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Movies in the Park: Barbie

Plantation Community Center, Plantation, FL

01/19/2024 at 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Employee Spotlight

Janann Fine - Paralegal



I'm Janann Fine, and I'm passionate about the legal profession and helping people. I was inspired by a paralegal who assisted my family during the wrongful death of my 16-year-old brother. Thus, I began my legal career path shortly after graduating high school in 1984. As a Florida Registered Paralegal, I currently work as a civil and personal injury and first party property litigation Paralegal. I am a native Floridian. My alma mater is Palm Beach State College f/k/a Palm Beach Community College with an A.S. in Paralegal Studies. I attended Palm Beach Community College on academic scholarships from the Lion's Club and I was the recipient of the first ever Attorney/Realtor Joint Committee Scholarship. I also have a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Florida Atlantic University. As a Paralegal with a Criminal Justice degree, I worked on the "Weed and Seed" grant project for Palm Beach County's Criminal Justice Commission managing \$850,000 of asset forfeiture grant money.

My professional goals are to learn as much as I can about the many fields of law and to hopefully become a paraprofessional in the legal field. My personal goals are to become a dual language speaker and to learn to play the harp. My favorite part of being an actively working paralegal is drafting challenging motions that the attorney can rely on in Court to win their argument. I was a homeschool mom of 3 beautiful children for the past 20 years because I enjoy spending time with my family. I found my personal passion in homeschooling my children and as a volunteer youth soccer coach since 2006.

As a side-gig, I am a Certified USA Soccer Referee. Because my two older children are also USA Soccer Referees, I can work soccer games with them on weekends. When I am not recruiting, drafting, coaching, or refereeing, I enjoy traveling, hiking, cooking, boating, and attending community theater and all genres of concerts. I am a huge lover of music and community theater and volunteering in my community. My motto to young people searching for their career path is to – "Chose a career that pays your bills, while you follow your passion, I am lucky enough that my career choice offers me both. I enjoy working for Nerina Smart as she is skilled and compassionate and fights for her clients.



Contact the Law Offices of Nerina Smart, P.A.

If you've been injured through no fault of your own, you may be wondering where to turn. You could have medical bills that are increasing in an alarming manner, and you may be injured severely enough that you are unable to return to work.



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