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20 Years Later: Remembering 9/11

How to Commemorate With Your Family

Those who are old enough to remember the terrorist attacks that took place on Sept. 11, 2001, know that it's a day they'll never forget. If you have children who were not yet born on that day, it can be difficult for them to truly comprehend the tragedy that others watched happen live. To help, here are some activities families can do together to commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

Flags of Valor

Local St. Louis organization Flags of Valor is commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks at Art Hill in Forest Park. They have been working since June to create thousands of American flags to stand tall in remembrance of those who have died in the war on terror. Each flag contains a photograph and dog tags of a fallen American service member or represents a first responder who died on 9/11.

This somber event may be best suited for older children and takes place from Sept. 4-12, 2021. For more information, go to FlagsOfValorSTL.com.

Activities From Home

For younger children, the 9/11 Memorial and Museum has a list of arts activities you can complete together from home. The activities focus on courage, resilience, and hope. Suggestions include writing a letter to first responders, creating your own first responder badge, and making paper cranes to symbolize peace. For more information, visit 911Memorial.org/learn/youth-and-families.

Have a Discussion

If you want your kids to understand 9/11, the best thing you may be able to do is talk to them about it. While children do learn about the terrorist attacks in school, they may not realize that it was so recent or impacted people they know. Talk to your child about what you remember from that day in terms that are age-appropriate or ask a friend or family member who remembers to help.

St. Louis stands together to mourn and honor those who died on 9/11. Use this 20th anniversary as an opportunity to help your child grapple with this difficult subject, so they too can never forget.

TRIALS & THEIR TALES

- NEWSLETTER -

1600 S. BRENTWOOD BLVD., SUITE 220 • ST. LOUIS, MO 63144 // FINNEYINJURYLAW.COM // 314-293-4222 // SEPTEMBER 2021

Learning to Say 'NO' HOW A SINGLE WORD CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING FOR THE BETTER

August has now become the month where summer ends. Schools start earlier and so do fall sports like soccer. This year will be one like we've never had. More of my kids will be playing sports and in full-time school than ever before. It's beginning to feel overwhelming. The ability to say "no" to things requires more strength and willpower than I previously imagined.

Saying "no" is truly difficult. When there are opportunities for your kids to play some sport or join some club, you never want to shortchange them. You feel like you are depriving them when you tell them "no." Is my child falling behind because we didn't do this or that? How do parents do all of this? The cost in both time and money can be enormous.

I'd read about all this stuff before. My neighbor would always laugh about how my schedule would be a mess soon, but we didn't have this issue the last few sports seasons due to the pandemic. In fact, last fall, we only had one child playing any sports. It was kind of the highlight of the week when his game rolled around. We didn't have to experience the scheduling that is coming.

So, we said "no" to some things for the boys. We said "no" so we could say "yes" to other things. If we don't stay vigilant, our lives will be dominated by our kids' schedules. There is nothing wrong with that per se, but it takes away from time as a family and at home. Our family needs that time as much as we can get it. In full disclosure, the kids

are still playing a ton of soccer. I don't want you to get the wrong impression.

I thought about saying "no" and how that applies to our cases at the office. We are working harder to be more selective in our cases and which ones we take on. Sometimes that requires a very difficult discussion with a client or family after we have worked their case for a few months. Other times it's a quick, "No, we cannot help on this matter."

We strive toward quality of cases versus quantity of cases. In fact, our recent trial was settled during jury deliberations after we realized this may not be the quality case we thought it was. We settled another case set for trial the week after for a very good amount — I'm convinced it's because we were in trial and willing to walk the walk.

We have found we can do much better on a fewer number of cases, both for the client and business-wise. Saying "no" to cases we really can't help, or which we can only provide a marginal benefit, allows us to take more cases to trial to get to know our clients better and understand their stories more. This will produce better results.

As cliché as it sounds, saying "no" allows us to say "yes" to investing more and working harder on the cases we do take on. We have seen it in our own practice. It also requires us to say "no" to an easy fee that is not full value for the client.

Make no mistake, we will make a bad decision by taking a case we shouldn't, one where we thought we could help and turns out we cannot. Just like my wife and I will say "yes" to a team or tournament we shouldn't have for the boys. We are never 100% on these goals. But that doesn't mean we should let perfect be the enemy of good. These decisions also do not happen overnight. It will take more and more time to fully adopt this change. It is an identity change, and our goals should reflect that changed identity.

As a result, when we decide to take a case to trial, we will work it up as hard as possible. We will spend as much as is needed, even though our opponents always have at least hundreds of millions, and most of the time, they have billions more than we do. We will pursue quality cases where they will see cases under the quantity number.

If our office puts our stamp on filing your case, you can take that as our word that we believe we can do some good on it, that we can improve your life and ease your suffering. Will we always be right? No, of course not. But, we will own our mistakes, learn from them and be better. I'm looking forward to it.

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2 Fun Family Card Games to Play With 1 Deck

Whether you're hanging out at home or camping with the family, card games are a great way to relax. A single deck is versatile and easy to pack, so if you have one on hand, try these two games that go beyond the classics like War and Go Fish.

1. Slapjack (2+ Players, No Jokers): The goal of this War-style game is to win all of the cards. To start, deal all of the cards face down, then have everyone form their cards into a pile without looking at them. Each player then flips a card face up into the center. Continue doing this until one of the cards played is a jack.

When that happens, the first person to slap the jack wins it and the cards beneath! They add them to their deck, and play continues until one player has all of the cards. To keep things interesting, if you accidentally slap a card that *isn't* a jack, you have to give up one of your cards to the player with that pile, and if you run out of cards, you can reenter the game by slapping the very next jack.

2. Spar (2-4 Players, No Ace of Spades or Cards Below 6): This easy game is played with just 35 cards, and the object is to win the last round (aka trick). To start, deal five cards to each player. Then, have the person to the left of the dealer lay one of their cards face up. Each person in the circle then plays a card in the same suit if they can or another suit if they can't. Whoever has the highest card in the original suit wins the trick and starts the next one! The winner of the fifth trick wins the game. If you want to keep score, award three points if the winning card is a six, two points if it's a seven, and one point if it's an eight or higher. Then play again!

We found these games on BicycleCards.com, but you can learn about them and dozens of others by checking out "The Ultimate Book of Family Card Games" by Oliver Ho from your local library.

SEMITRUCK COLLISIONS WITH PASSENGER VEHICLES

What Causes These Accidents?

Truck accidents can be terrifying. This June, two semitrailer trucks collided on I-55 near St. Louis, and both trucks caught on fire. One truck was carrying lumber and became completely engulfed in flames. As scary as that is, both drivers were fortunate enough to walk away unharmed — passenger vehicle victims of truck crashes are rarely as lucky.

A large commercial truck can weigh 30 times what a passenger vehicle does, so people in passenger vehicles are much more likely to be killed or injured in the event of a crash. These accidents keep popping up on the news, so it's reasonable to ask what's causing them.

Driver error is 10 times more likely to be the cause of a truck accident than any other factor. Truck drivers work long hours and are often fatigued, so they can easily fall asleep at the wheel or become distracted. Cellphone use is a real problem, but distraction can result from something as simple as taking a drink, talking to a passenger, or fiddling with the radio as well. Moreover, substance abuse by drivers also leads to accidents.

Driver training and inexperience is another common factor in trucking accidents. With demand for truck drivers soaring to all-time highs, new drivers cost less to employ and are appealing to trucking companies. These drivers can sometimes be sent out on the road in a large and dangerous vehicle with a quick certification, which often leads to tragedy.

Improper loading of a truck can result from hurried work caused by unreasonable deadlines, or by inexperienced packers who are unaware of the best procedures. An improperly loaded truck can be off-balance and difficult to maneuver, putting it at risk of jackknifing.

Truck accidents often result in life-altering injuries. Determining the cause of a truck accident and who should be held responsible is extremely complex and requires an expert, so anyone involved in a truck accident should seek representation immediately. The knowledgeable attorneys at Finney Injury Law have experience with these cases and are familiar with the filing deadlines. For more information, contact us at 314.293.4222.



Remember the 'McDonald's Hot Coffee' Lawsuit?

IT WAS JUSTIFIED ALL ALONG

Back in 1992, an elderly woman named Stella Liebeck sued McDonald's in what became known as the infamous "hot coffee lawsuit." The public relations team at McDonald's has made sure the case is remembered as frivolous, but, like the third-degree burns Stella Liebeck suffered from a cup of McDonald's coffee, her lawsuit was dead serious.

The facts were simple: Mrs. Liebeck used the drive-thru with her grandson, who was at the wheel. Once the car stopped moving, she placed the cup of coffee she'd just ordered between her legs and tried to add some creamer. The cup tipped over, dumping the contents into her lap, causing third-degree burns over 16% of her body.

She required hospitalization for 8 days. Whirlpool debridement of the burns

and skin grafts followed. She was at least partially disabled for more than two years, and that's to say nothing of her pain and suffering.

For all of this damage, Mrs. Liebeck asked McDonald's for \$20,000 — arguably not even enough to pay her hospital bills.

When McDonald's refused to pay more than \$800, the case went to court, and it came out that they'd known for at least 10 years about the dangers their hot coffee represented, with over 700 recorded burns and several lawsuits. But in 1992, their policy was to store coffee at 180-190 degrees F, which is almost the boiling point! Furthermore,



McDonald's higher-ups testified on the stand that no matter what happened, they had no intention of changing their behavior. Unsurprisingly, at the end of the trial, McDonald's was hit with a \$2.9 million penalty.

Although the penalty was later reduced, McDonald's still dragged Mrs. Liebeck's name through the mud in the press, with their version of the story being the one that stuck in the public consciousness. But it wouldn't change the fact that they had to pay her around \$700,000 at the end of the day — or that their coffee is now being served at a reasonable temperature.

One-Pan Apple Cider Chicken

Inspired by WellPlated.com

Bring the taste of fall into your kitchen with this sizzling skillet meal.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 1 tsp salt, divided
- 1/2 tsp black pepper, divided
- 1/2 cup apple cider
- 2 tsp Dijon mustard
- 4 tsp olive oil, divided
- 3 sweet apples, cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 2 tsp fresh rosemary, chopped, plus more for garnish

DIRECTIONS

- Sprinkle chicken with 1/2 tsp salt and 1/4 tsp pepper. Set aside.
- In a small bowl, combine apple cider and mustard. Set aside.
- In a large skillet over medium heat, warm 2 tsp olive oil. When shimmering, add chicken thighs top-side down. Cook for 4 minutes, then flip and cook for 4 more minutes. Transfer to a plate and cover with foil. Wipe the skillet clean.
- Heat the remaining oil in the skillet, then add sliced apples, remaining salt and pepper, and rosemary. Cook for 5 minutes.
- Return the chicken to the skillet and add apple cider-mustard mixture. Cook for 5 minutes, then serve sprinkled with rosemary!

YOUR REFERRALS MEAN THE WORLD TO US

There is no greater compliment we can receive than a client telling a friend or loved one about us. If you know somebody who has been injured and needs an attorney who will fight on their behalf and give their case the attention it deserves, please pass along this newsletter and have them give us a call at 314-293-4222. Thank you for spreading the word about Finney Injury Law.