

# LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE LAW



**CULLEN & HEMPHILL** PLC  
PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

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## Vaccines Lead The Way Back To “Normal”

By Bob Hemphill and Kim Cullen

**From Bob:** We have had a wonderful few months filled with great times. With our vaccinations comes hope that things are on the way back to normal. We are so thankful that in

April, Allison was able to enjoy her 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday with her sister and some of her friends at a local watersports park. After the 2020 lockdown curtailed a celebration, she was thrilled to be able to celebrate her Birthday with her classmates and friends. With the end of the school year in sight we have reflected on the girls' 2020-2021 school year. We couldn't be happier with the way both girls have

performed academically in these most challenging times. They are looking forward to a much deserved break this Summer.

**From Kim:** Weeze and I experienced a great thrill late in April when we were able to attend our daughter Grace's graduation from the School of Nursing at the University of Florida with her Bachelor's of Science degree. (As you may remember, we were heartbroken back in December when we were not able to

attend our son Burns' Master's degree graduation ceremony because the University cancelled it for COVID reasons.)

Although it was very different from graduations in the past due to social distancing, we were still able to watch Grace walk across the stage in her cap and gown. That same week we also received great news that Grace was offered jobs in both the Intensive Care Unit and Operating Room department at Shands Teaching Hospital at UF. She accepted the Operating Room

position and will start work later this summer after she passes her national licensing exam. Weeze and I are very, very proud of her!

We are also proud to report that Luke finished his Freshman year at UF with Straight A's! This would be a great accomplishment any year - but seems especially impressive since his entire Freshman year featured on-line classes, only. Weeze and I have been truly blessed.





# Recognizing the Signs of Day Care Abuse

By: Kim Sprouse and Kim Cullen

Ask any mother - it is a hard thing to leave your child in the care of another. But in today's economy both parents often need to work to provide for their children, so families are more dependent than ever upon daycares to take care of and educate their children.

Unfortunately, no matter how much care and research one puts into selecting a childcare facility, there is always a risk of child abuse.

Unfortunately, many victims of child abuse are too young to accurately describe their experiences. Nevertheless, experts in the detection of child abuse say that these are some signs that parents should be aware of:

## Behavioral Changes

- Loss of appetite or unusual overeating
- Changes in sleeping such as nightmares or bedwetting
- Unusual clinginess
- Intense dislike of the caregiver

Separation anxiety is not unusual for infants and toddlers; however, a sudden change in behavior such as consistent inconsolable crying as you near the day care center may be a cause for concern, especially if coupled with other changes in behavior or other signs of abuse.

## Signs of Improper Care

- The child appears tired or listless or seems uninterested or detached from the environment

- Developmental delays from lack of stimulation and affection
- The child is more demanding of the parents' attention and affection than normal
- Changes in sleep patterns
- Diaper rash
- Vomiting or anemia



## Signs of Physical Abuse

Unexplained cuts, bruises, burns or welts may be signs of physical abuse. If a child is accidentally hurt while in child care, a daycare provider should let the parent know how and when the accident occurred, and there should always be a written accident report.

Children do fall and bump and bang into things; however, this shouldn't be a constant occurrence.

## Signs of Sexual Abuse

- Torn or stained clothing
- Abnormal walk
- Pain when using the bathroom
- Potty accidents
- Pelvic or groin pain
- Knowledge of sex unusual for a child of that age

If you see any of these signs, there may be a problem. Even though it may be inconvenient, you will want to remove your child from that childcare situation immediately. You should take your child to a hospital or other healthcare provider for a physical exam.

As always, please call us if you have questions.



## 5 Safety Tips to Prevent Children from Drowning

By: Kim Sprouse and Kim Cullen

Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control indicate that children aged 1 to 4 have the highest drowning rates. Sadly, among children in that age range, most drownings occur in home swimming pools. The following safety measures could help prevent the tragedy associated with child drownings:

- Keep a close eye on children in any pool area, as well as in or around any buildings adjacent to a pool area.
- Remind kids that they are never to go near a swimming pool without an adult with them.
- Keep all exterior doors in buildings next to pool areas locked and child-proofed (remember, a pool is like a magnet to many children).
- Make sure your children have some basic level of swimming lessons or training. Even infants can be taught to float on their backs for short periods of time.
- When you are done swimming, make sure all of the pool toys are removed from the pool as well as anything else that might attract a child to the pool.



If you leave your child with someone who has a swimming pool or lives adjacent to a swimming pool, make sure there are safety measures put in place and they are followed. Some of our most devastating moments as lawyers have been when we have been consoling families who have lost toddlers in drowning accidents.

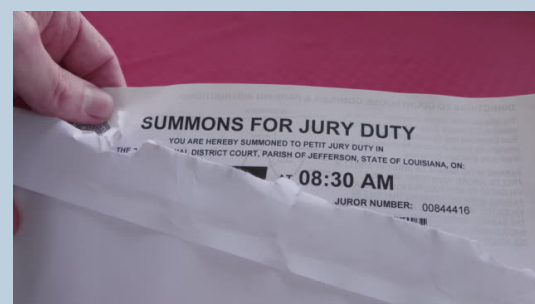
## Ninth Judicial Circuit — Public Health Message From The Court

By: Bob Hemphill

The Ninth Judicial Circuit (the Circuit of courts that cover Orange and Osceola counties) has recently released a public health message to inform potential jurors of the extra precautions that are being made for jurors in the courthouses. They want to assure potential jurors that their health and safety are high priorities. The court has implemented the following measures recommended by medical professionals and the CDC:

- Requiring temperature checks and health screening upon entry to the courthouse
- Requiring face masks inside the courthouse
- Enforcing social distancing guidelines
- Limiting the number of jurors reporting for each session
- Increasing daily cleaning protocols and enhancing nightly disinfecting
- Providing personal sanitizer and installing hand-sanitizing stations throughout the courthouse

Although many people dislike being called to jury duty, serving as a juror is the closest experience most people will ever have actually participating in our government. Jury duty is important and we are glad that our local circuit is doing all it can to make jurors feel safe.



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## **Legal problem troubling you? Reach out to us!**

By: Kim Cullen

If you are receiving this newsletter, you probably already know that Bob and I and our law firm primarily handle personal injury cases ranging from car accidents, to premises liability cases, to products liability, to cases arising out of child sex abuse. **If you aren't sure if we handle a particular legal problem - just call us and ask.**

What you may not know is that we are happy to discuss any legal problem with you (or also a family member, or a friend) and to help you find an attorney who is a great fit for your particular legal problem or challenge.

One of the benefits of practicing law as long as Bob and I have is that we get to meet and work with a lot of really terrific lawyers that practice in areas of the law that we don't. For example, we know excellent lawyers who focus on criminal law, others who focus on Workers' Compensation, and still others who focus on bankruptcy - just to name a few.

It would be our honor for you consider us **"your lawyers"** - for all purposes, and to call upon us whenever you need legal help of any kind.

