

# Electronic Newsletter

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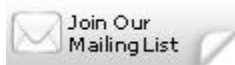
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from the Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck!

## Winter Driving Safety Tips

Some winter driving tips from Weather.com and [Miranda](#):

- Slow down:** Do not drive fast in icy or snow conditions.
- Avoid using cruise control:** This is no time to be on "automatic." You should be doing what you can to "feel" the road.
- Turn on your lights:** You want others to see you.
- Give yourself space:** Leave plenty of room between you and other cars. Leave at least three or four times the space you normally would.
- Use lower gears** to help maintain traction when going up hills.
- Avoid overconfidence in your vehicle:** Remember that on icy roads, four-wheel drive isn't much better than other cars.
- Stay behind snow removal gear:** Not only is it dangerous to pass these big vehicles, which have limited visibility, but you might find yourself in worse road conditions.
- Take your foot off the accelerator when skidding:** ease the steering wheel in the direction you want the front wheels to go. If you have anti-lock brakes, **do not** pump them. Apply pressure, and realize that the "pulse" is normal.
- Be prepared when you drive in the winter:** Make sure that your car is in good working order, and consider keeping some standard items in your car including an emergency kit (first aid, flares etc.); shovel; a bag of sand or gravel; warm blankets; and a few non-perishable food items.
- Keep the gas tank full and your cell phone battery charged.**

### Newsletter Archive

New to our mailing list? To read our prior newsletters, click [here](#).

## Millions Drive Drunk or High

Approximately 30.6 million people drove under the influence of alcohol in the past year, and an estimated 10.1 million drove under the influence of illicit drugs, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. The estimates are based on surveys of more than 200,000 people. The survey did find some good news: Alcohol-impaired driving rates for the period 2006-09 compared with 2002-05 fell from 14.6% to 13.2%. Read [more](#).

## Another Disney Bus Fatality



The [AP](#) reported that a 69-year-old Mass. man was killed last month when he stepped in front of a bus at

## Report: U.S. Lags Other Nations in Traffic Safety

A new report by the National Research Council suggests the United States is missing significant opportunities to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries, and could save lives by implementing a more rigorous, comprehensive program that adopts successful safety practices from other countries.

The report's authors reviewed traffic safety practices and strategies in high-income countries around the world and compared them with those in the U.S. From 1995 to 2009, fatalities dropped 52% in France, 38% in the United Kingdom, 25% in Australia, and 50% in 15 other high-income countries for which long-term fatality and traffic data are available, but they dropped only 19% in the U.S. Countries most successful at reducing traffic deaths had comprehensive safety programs that include improvement in road design and traffic management; regulation of vehicle safety; and regulation of driver behaviors regarding speed, alcohol and drug use, as well as seat belt and motorcycle helmet use. Read [more](#).

## The Law Firm of Stephen M.



### Reck Sponsors Teen Contestant

We're proud to support Miss Connecticut High School America winner [Nichole Labbe](#) as she competes for the national Miss High School America title. Nichole is an excellent

student, a varsity cheerleader and has a black belt in karate. She spent her summer vacation in Costa Rica where she ran a camp for village kids. She is an all-around great kid and we wish her the best this spring. Good luck Nichole!

## Baseball Bat Maker Sued for Child's Injuries



A Chicago couple filed suit against Easton-Bell Sports Inc., maker of aluminum baseball bats, "for injuries their 11-year-old son suffered when he was struck in the head by a ball last spring." According to Robert and Cheryl Schutter's complaint, the company "produced bats

capable of hitting baseballs at dangerous speeds." They say their son "suffered brain damages and deafness in his left ear" after being "struck in the head by a line drive."

The [Chicago Tribune](#) reported the Schutter's suit claims Easton "designed an aluminum bat with a dangerous 'exit velocity' - the speed at which a baseball comes off a bat." Schutter's attorney Antonio Romanucci said, "Not only are we looking for money damages here, but we want legislation to stop kids from using these bats that are promoted as cannons." In 2009, a Montana jury returned a verdict for \$850,000 "to the family of an 18-year-old youth league pitcher who was killed when he was struck in the head by a line drive hit with an aluminum bat."

## McDonald's Sued Over Happy Meals in Proposed Class Action



### No Claim for Money Damages in Suit

The [Los Angeles Times](#) reported that a Sacramento mother and the Center for Science in the Public Interest filed a lawsuit last month against McDonald's Corp., "alleging that its practice of giving toys with children's meals is deceptive to children." The group "had been threatening to sue McDonald's since last summer, claiming that the Happy Meals toys constitute a method of circumventing parental control and teach children unhealthy eating." The lawsuit alleges that "McDonald's exploits very young California children and harms their health by advertising unhealthy Happy Meals with toys directly to them." The suit "seeks class-action, or group, status on behalf of all of the state's children under 8 years of age who have seen marketing for the company's packaged children's meals since December 2006 ... [and] an order barring the company from continuing to promote meals featuring toys on television, billboards and in its restaurants. There is no demand for money damages."

Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL. Authorities said the man was not in a crosswalk at the time. This was at least the second fatal accident involving a Disney World bus in 2010.

## Recall Central

To read about recent recalls and product safety news from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, click [here](#).

Get the latest recall information from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration [here](#).

The Dept. of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service regulate meat, poultry products and processed eggs. Check their recalls [here](#).

Click [here](#) for Food and Drug Administration recalls, market withdrawals and safety alerts.

For updates on the peanut products recall click [here](#).

## Family of Shooting Victim Sues A&E Over Police Raid

The [AP](#) reported that a lawsuit filed against A&E Television Networks claims "the network and a production crew filming for 'The First 48' cable television series were responsible for the May 16 death of Aiyana Stanley-Jones, who was shot in the head during the raid." The family of the victim accused the production company of encouraging "Detroit police 'to conduct an illegal, overly aggressive, and unnecessary raid' on the home. Aiyana was killed by an officer's bullet when police stormed her house searching for a homicide suspect."

## Haunted House Sued for

### Wrongful Death [The St. Louis Post-](#)



[Dispatch](#) reported that the parents of an asthmatic girl filed a wrongful death suit against haunted house operator Halloween Productions, Inc. The suit alleges "artificial fog and sickly scents" were to blame for the child's breathing problems and eventual death.

The [News-Democrat](#) added that Halloween Productions denied any wrongdoing and stated that "warning signs were clearly in place at the attraction advising against entry if one is pregnant, claustrophobic, prone to seizures, heart or respiratory problems."

## Scientists Concerned About Livestock Consumption of Antibiotics

The [Los Angeles Times "Booster Shots"](#) blog reported: "The US-raised animals we eat consumed about 29 million pounds of antibiotics in the last year alone, according to a first-ever Food and Drug Administration accounting of antimicrobial drug use by the American livestock industry." The figures "came in response to a 2008 law requiring the federal government to collect and disseminate antibiotic use in livestock as part of the Animal Drug User Fee Act." The Union of Concerned Scientists "estimated the yearly animal consumption of antibiotics to be eight times as large as the volume of antibiotics produced for human consumption in the US." Mardi Mellon, director of the union's Food and Environment program, said "'Antimicrobial use in US agriculture is way out of proportion' to what is necessary," posing "dire risk to human health by undermining the effectiveness of these drugs."

## Motorized Wheelchair Collision Leads to Injury, Suit

The [Chicago Tribune](#) reported an 84-year-old woman sued her senior living center after a collision with a motorized wheelchair left her with a broken leg and hip. HER suit alleges that the center "failed to properly care for and supervise residents when they allowed residents to move 'at a speed that was too fast and that endangered other patients.'"

## Stealing Your Personal Info- There's an App for That



California man sued Apple Inc. for allowing iPhone and iPad applications "to transmit users' personal information to advertising networks without customers' consent." The suit seeks class action status for customers who downloaded "applications such as Pandora, Paper Toss, the Weather Channel and Dictionary.com ... between Dec. 1, 2008, and last week."

The suit claims "Apple's iPhones and iPads are encoded with identifying devices that allow advertising networks to track what applications users download, how frequently they're used and for how long." It adds, "Some apps are also selling additional information to ad networks, including users' location, age, gender, income, ethnicity, sexual orientation and political views." Read [more](#).



## About Our Firm



At [The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck](#), justice is our mission. Our firm is well known and well respected for its ability to handle personal injury, wrongful death, and professional malpractice cases in Connecticut and

Rhode Island. Call today or visit us on the web at [www.stephenreck.com](http://www.stephenreck.com).

### The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC

Proud to support the [North Stonington Education Foundation](#), [Little League Baseball](#), [Children International](#), and the [Conn. Chapter of the Special Olympics](#).

**\* Advertising Material \***

### Proudly Serving Connecticut and Rhode Island

The trial attorneys at The Law Firm of Stephen M. Reck, LLC represent individuals in all types of personal injury cases throughout the state of Connecticut and the state of Rhode Island, including, in Connecticut: New London County, New Haven County, Middlesex County, Hartford County, Tolland County, and Windham County; and in Rhode Island: Bristol County, Kent County, Newport County, Providence County, and Washington County.

**Referrals Welcome**

**Remember we are here if you need a referral to an attorney in a different area of law.**

## Don't Drive Distracted!

**It Kills**



[KidsAgainstDistractedDriving.com](http://KidsAgainstDistractedDriving.com)

