

PERSONAL INJURY NEWS YOU CAN USE



The Dangers of Benzene Exposure.

Benzene, also known as benzol, is a colorless flammable liquid created as a by-product during the coal manufacturing process. It can be detected by a sweet odor, but should never be inhaled deliberately. Benzene is commonly used as a motor fuel or as a solvent to degrease heavy equipment and machinery.

Currently, benzene can be found in a variety of industrial settings where it is used for several reasons, including the development of other chemicals. These secondary chemicals are used in the manufacturing of plastics, adhesives, and man-made fibers. The widespread use makes exposure to this toxin a risk for many employees at their workplace.

Although benzene has modern applications, it can be found in use as early as the late 1890s. Today, modern factories employ the use of benzene for a variety of reasons, which can expose workers to toxic fumes and habitual contact.

Although this is an extremely volatile and dangerous substance, employers still create an environment that places workers in close proximity to it, creating the need for benzene lawyers.

The most common work environments where benzene can be found are:

Oil refineries.

Steel mills.

Chemical plants.

Oil and/or gas wells.

Factories that make or utilize coke batteries.

Shoe manufacturers.

Paper or pulp factories.

The rubber industry.

Dry cleaners.

The Effects of Benzene

Benzene has been categorized as a carcinogen because it affects the human body by disrupting cell functions so that they no longer operate and perform as they should. It also greatly reduces the production of red blood cells and causes

the loss of white blood cells by reducing the level of antibodies a person has. This process leaves a person open to disease and illness in the short-term. Over a period of time, exposure to benzene will affect bone marrow to the point of anemia, decrease immune system response, and create excessive bleeding. It is also a known cause for Acute Myelogenous Leukemia, or AML, which is a cancer that grows rapidly in the blood and bone marrow. The increase of non-Hodgkins lymphoma (NHL) is also increased with exposures to benzene.

The Need for Benzene Lawyers

Although the dangers of benzene exposure are well-known in every industry, many employers still put their employees at great risk on a daily basis. When someone is poisoned by this substance, families can be put into tumultuous circumstances with the advent of sickness, expensive medical bills, lost income, and the possible death of beloved family members.

If you suspect that you or your co-workers have become ill as a result of exposure to benzene, contact us today. We're happy to answer your questions and help you stand up for your rights.

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Letter From Jan

I don't like to see anyone taken advantage of, for any reason. But it is particularly troubling when the victim is someone who can't completely defend themselves, or someone who has been injured while working to provide for themselves and their family.

In this month's newsletter, we have included two articles dealing with these very topics. The first one includes important information on the hazards and dangers of benzene exposure, which most often occurs in the workplace. Our second article outlines the types of abuse or neglect that can, unfortunately, potentially occur in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

Be sure to take a look at these important topics and, as always, feel free to contact our office if you have any questions

on these articles, or any other topic related to personal injury. Remember: if you've been injured, you can bet that the "other side" has a team of lawyers fighting for them. You are entitled to that same advantage. My team and I have the right experience, knowledge, and understanding of Personal Injury claims to stand up for you or someone you care about, and fight for the compensation you deserve.

We're always happy to hear from you, and look forward to discussing your case, and how we may be able to help you win the settlement you deserve.

Sincerely,
Jan Dils



Jan Dils brings her expertise to issues that affect you and millions of other Americans every day. While her knowledge spans the critical areas pertaining to Personal Injury, Veterans' benefits, Social Security disability benefits and related appeals and claims, her practice remains focused on people, making sure you get the right answers and results.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT!

Elise McCay

After graduating from Parkersburg High School, Elise McCay attended WVU, where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Strategic Communications from the P.I.

Reed College of Media in 2015. She plans to go back to school this year to pursue an education in legal studies, as well.

Although she just joined the Jan Dils team recently, Elise has

already settled in and is making a great impression on her coworkers and clients.

"I've only worked at the firm for about 2 months, but I feel like I've known these people for years," said Elise. "Everyone is so kind and welcoming. I feel like I am part of a family here."

In her role as a Personal Injury Specialist, Elise organizes clients' files, requests their medical records, and takes lead calls. "I have a lot of favorite things about coming to work," she explained. "I was trained by the most dedicated and experienced people, so getting to work beside them is a privilege. It's very humbling when clients call and confide in us with their experiences."

In her spare time, Elise loves to travel. She has friends and family in different states, and flies or drives along the east coast and pay them a visit when she can.



Community Corner



GOLDEN APPLE

The April winner of the Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law Golden Apple Award was a popular choice among the student body at Williamstown High School. The students prepared signs and banners for the winner in advance of the announcement. **Jack Waugman**, a 7th grade math teacher, was named the April 2017 winner. It didn't take long to see why his win was so popular with his students. His dedication goes far beyond the classroom, with some suggesting that Mr. Waugman should really be awarded a medal for getting young people excited about math. However, it's his passion for the subject that spills over to the students. We were told that he often drives his students to math competitions on his own so that they may compete. We also learned that one of his students will soon be competing at the national level.

The Tragic Realities of Nursing Home Abuse and Neglect.

Nursing home abuse and neglect is a difficult issue to face. Elder abuse and neglect exists in many forms, many of which may not be evidenced by clear, physical signs. Many victims are frail and vulnerable. As a result, they are often unable to protect themselves or seek needed help. Elder abuse and neglect can be difficult to prove once suspicion arises. A sad truth is that a number of nursing home abuse and neglect cases go unreported and unpunished. It is estimated that roughly 1,800 deaths each year occur due to elder abuse and neglect.

Types of Nursing Home Abuse

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse occurs when physical force is used to cause harm against a victim. This can include hitting, scratching, shoving, biting, and inappropriate use of restraints. Physical elder abuse typically has the most obvious warning signs. For this reason, it may be more plausible to prove physical abuse than other less obvious forms of elder abuse.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional elder abuse occurs when a caregiver or other individual causes emotional distress within a victim. Emotional abuse may result from ridicule and humiliation, intimidation, terrorizing, or ignoring an elder. Demeaning behavior, scapegoating,

and blaming are also considered forms of emotional elder abuse.

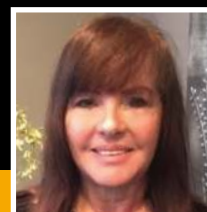
Sexual Abuse

Sexual elder abuse takes place when non-consensual sexual contact is made with an elder. In many cases, physical

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Pressure Cooker Chili

For a fast, delicious meal that tastes like it took all day, try Pressure Cooker Chili, from the kitchen of our teammate Rebecca Nelson!



INGREDIENTS:

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| 3 pounds stew meat (beef, pork, and/or lamb) | 2 chipotle peppers canned in adobo sauce, chopped |
| 2 teaspoons peanut oil | 1 Tablespoon adobo sauce (from the chipotle peppers in adobo) |
| 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt | 1 Tablespoon tomato paste |
| 1 (12-ounce) bottle of beer, preferably a medium ale | 1 Tablespoon chili powder |
| 1 (16-ounce) container salsa | 1 teaspoon ground cumin |
| 30 tortilla chips | |

DIRECTIONS: Place the meat in a large mixing bowl and toss with the peanut oil and salt. Set aside. Heat a 6-quart heavy-bottomed pressure cooker over high heat until hot. Add the meat in 3 or 4 batches and brown on all sides, approximately 2 minutes per batch. Once each batch is browned, place the meat in a clean, large bowl. Once all of the meat is browned, add the beer to the cooker to deglaze the pot. Scrape the browned bits from the bottom of the pot. Add the meat back to the pressure cooker along with the salsa, tortilla chips, chipotle peppers, adobo sauce, tomato paste, chili powder, and ground cumin and stir to combine. Lock the lid in place according to the manufacturer's instructions. When the steam begins to hiss out of the cooker, reduce the heat to low, just enough to maintain a very weak whistle. Cook for 25 minutes. Remove from the heat and carefully release the steam. Serve immediately, and enjoy!



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and emotional abuse may also play a role. Elders who are sexually abused may be tricked, coerced, manipulated, or forced into sexual contact.

Financial Abuse

Stealing money or personal property are common forms of elder financial abuse. Additionally, financial abuse can occur when a caregiver or other individual tricks or pressures an elder to divulge valuable information, such as bank account and credit card numbers or when a victim is coerced to modify a deed, will, or trust.

Nursing Home Neglect

Elder neglect, or nursing home negligence, most commonly occurs when a resident does not receive proper medical, physical, or emotional attention. As a result, neglect can pose serious risk of harm to victims. In certain cases, neglect may escalate to physical or emotional abuse.

Taking Action Against Elder Abuse and Neglect

While it may be difficult, taking action against elder abuse and neglect may be the only way to stop the mistreatment and prevent others from becoming victims. If the victim is in immediate danger, he or she should be removed from the nursing home facility as soon as possible. After the elderly patient is safe, legal action should be taken against the facility.

Reporting Nursing Home Abuse and Neglect

Reporting nursing home abuse and neglect to the proper state hotline will always be one of your first steps once you feel your loved one may have been abused or neglected. Be sure to always ask your senior how they are feeling and how they are being treated in a facility. Contacting a nursing home abuse and neglect attorney with experience and a proven track record of case settlements

and verdicts, will only ensure your family that they get the compensation they deserve. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding your nursing home abuse and neglect case.

Filing a Nursing Home Abuse and Neglect Lawsuit

If you or a loved one were the victim of nursing home abuse, an experienced nursing home abuse and neglect lawyer can help. A nursing home abuse lawyer will help to navigate the complex legal

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process needed to pursue a nursing home abuse lawsuit. Additionally, an elder abuse and neglect lawyer can help provide support and peace of mind during a difficult time. Please contact us today for answers to your questions about filing a nursing home abuse and neglect lawsuit.