



## U.S. Opioid Overdose Deaths Continue to Rise.

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pioid abuse has reached epidemic proportions in the United States.

According to the Department of Health & Human Services, 12.5 million people misused prescription opioids and 33,091 Americans died from opioid overdose in 2015 alone. These medications provide important pain relief for many. However, over the years, drug companies inflated the effectiveness of delayed-release medications like OxyContin® and downplayed their addictive properties, creating conditions ripe for abuse.

“No area of the United States is exempt from this epidemic – we all know a friend, family member, or loved ones devastated by opioids,” said Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Principal Deputy Director Anne Schuchat, M.D. “All branches of the federal government are working together to reduce the availability of illicit drugs, prevent deaths from overdoses, treat people with substance-use disorders, and prevent people from starting using drugs in the first place.”

**“No area of the United States is exempt from this epidemic – we all know a friend, family member, or loved ones devastated by opioids”**

This hits very close to home. Death rates from overdoses involving opioids increased in 21 states, with 10 states doubling their rates from 2015 to 2016. New Hampshire, West Virginia and Massachusetts had the highest death rates from synthetic opioids.

Across demographic categories, the largest increase in opioid overdose death rates was in males between the ages of 25-44.

- Overall drug overdose death rates increased by 21.5 percent.
- The overdose death rate from synthetic opioids (other than methadone) more than doubled, likely driven by illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF).

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## Letter From Jan

In this newsletter we spotlight the growing epidemic of opioid abuse and the consequences of addiction. This is the tobacco issue of our time. On average, smokers die 10 years earlier than

nonsmokers. Decades ago I could not have imagined smoke-free restaurants or workplaces. However, even five years ago I could not have imagined 12.5 million people misusing prescription opioids, many of them dying. Like the tobacco industry, Big Pharm has been complicit in downplaying the addictive properties of these drugs.

We also talk about Premises Liability. We have featured specific types of cases, like dog bites, but in this article, we talk about the category as a whole. Premises Liability cases



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.

account for an extremely high percentage of Personal Injury Law. As a subscriber of this newsletter, you know that education is important to us. To a person, our staff cares about our clients. Many of the injuries and death cases we see could have been prevented and are therefore needless. But what keeps us going is what you will often hear in our Employee Spotlights – being part of a team that is able to get our clients the compensation or benefits they deserve. Our clients become like family as we work side by side to get the best possible outcomes for you and your loved ones. As always, never hesitate to contact us through our website, [jandils.com](http://jandils.com), or a toll-free call at **877-526-3457**.

Sincerely,  
Jan Dils

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT!

### Joe Hendershot

Joe Hendershot came to Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law after a 17-year career with a large telecommunications company. He joined our team last January as a Personal Injury Specialist. Handling intake and follow-up, Joe really gets to know his clients and, from the get-go, developed sincere empathy.

"I meet people going through one of the toughest times in their life, if not THE worst time. It's so rewarding to work as a team to throw a lifeline to these vulnerable clients."

Joe is a single dad of two amazing boys: Gavin (14) and Jack (10). When Joe's not working, he spends as much time as

possible with his sons playing basketball, video games and just hanging out. Even if it's a call or FaceTiming, they are always connected and the love of his life.

Joe is also an avid Pittsburgh Steelers fan with a beagle/basset hound who is also a part of the "Steelers Nation." Jerry (a.k.a. Jerome Bettis Hendershot) – is named after the former Steelers halfback, "The Bus."



## Community Corner

The Jan Dils team is always stepping up to help our Veterans. Most recently, we are proud to have joined a new organization in the Mid-Ohio Valley. As a part of "**We Have Your Six**," we are working to help build shelters for our homeless Veterans. According to the U.S. Department of Development, in 2016, there were more than 39,000 homeless Veterans nationwide. This is a statistic Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law takes seriously. We are pleased to be a part of this organization to shelter and give shelter to our Vets.



### OFFICE INBOX

**Seanna Johnson** joined our firm this summer as an intern for the PI pod. Although she was here for a short time, she was a great help and will be missed.

Our employees are like family. We are pleased to announce that **Darian Farley**, Personal Injury specialist, married Anthony Batts on September 15th.

We also celebrate the 10-year anniversary of one of our crackerjack receptionists, **Tammie McGee**.





# What Is Premises Liability?

- Swimming pool accidents
- Amusement park accidents
- Fires
- Water leaks or flooding
- Toxic fumes or chemicals

Of course, there are two sides to Premises Liability when it is important to seek legal help: if you have been injured on another person's property or if someone has been injured on your property. Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law has decades of experience in Premises Liability Law. Please contact us for a free consultation prior to responding to a demand letter or before requesting funds through a demand letter or filing a court case. We are here to advise you.



**P**remises liability is a legal concept that typically comes into play in personal injury cases where the injury was caused by some type of unsafe or defective condition on someone's property.

Most personal injury cases are based on negligence, and premises liability cases are no exception. In order to win a premises liability case, the injured person must prove that the property owner was negligent with respect to ownership and/or maintenance of the property. In general, negligence means that the property owner failed to use reasonable care in connection with the property.

It's important to note that simply because you were injured on someone's property does not mean that the property owner was negligent. Further, simply because the property might have been in an unsafe condition does not automatically mean that the property owner was negligent. You have to show that the property owner knew or should reasonably have known that the premises were in an unsafe condition, and still failed to take proper steps to remedy the situation.

**Types of Premises Liability Cases**  
Many different types of personal injury

cases can be classified as premises liability cases, including:

- Slip and fall
- Snow and ice accidents
- Inadequate maintenance of the premises
- Defective conditions on the premises
- Inadequate building security leading to injury or assault
- Elevator and escalator accidents
- Dog bites

Sources: [www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/what-premises-liability.html](http://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/what-premises-liability.html)

## Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Cake

It's getting close to fall and this sweet treat from receptionist **Cheryl Wingrove** could easily become a favorite!



**INGREDIENTS:**

- |                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 cups flour        | 1 cup oil                     |
| 2 cups pumpkin      | 2 cups sugar                  |
| 2 tsp baking powder | 4 eggs                        |
| 2 tsp baking soda   | 1 cup chopped nuts (optional) |
| 1/2 tsp salt        | 1-1/2 cups chocolate chips    |
| 1/2 tsp cinnamon    |                               |

**DIRECTIONS:** Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients in large mixing bowl. Grease and flour a Bundt pan. Pour mixture into pan. Bake for one hour.



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*Continued from front story*

- The prescription opioid-related overdose death rate increased by 10.6 percent.
- The heroin-related overdose death rate increased by 19.5 percent.
- The cocaine-related overdose death



- rate increased by 52.4 percent.
- The psychostimulant-related overdose death rate increased by 33.3 percent.

The CDC continues to work closely with other federal agencies to support the Department of Health and Human Services' five-point strategy to fight the opioid overdose crisis by:

- Improving access to prevention, treatment, and recovery services, including the full range of medication-assisted treatment.
- Better targeting of availability and distribution of overdose-reversing drugs.
- Strengthening surveillance activities through timely public health data and reporting.

- Supporting cutting-edge research on pain and addiction.
- Advancing better practices for pain management.

At Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, we are investigating cases involving opioid-related deaths and overdose, or symptoms of overdose requiring hospitalization. If you or a loved one have been among the millions of people to have suffered the consequences of opioid addiction, realize there is no shame in speaking out. Addiction is a disease. And many drug manufacturers are complicit in propagating misuse for profit. If you have questions, we have answers. Reach out for a free consultation at 877-526-3457.