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## GET YOUR HOME FALL-READY

### *Simple, Affordable DIY Projects You'll Love*

Housewares stores are currently full of cute autumn decor, but the cost of refreshing your house's look each season adds up quickly. Fortunately, you can do a lot for less. Many DIY crafts are not as complicated as you might think. In addition to saving money, you'll create personalized charm none of your neighbors can match.

#### **Repurpose your pumpkins.**

Small gourds are incredibly versatile. Just sprinkling a few around your dining room table or mantle makes it feel like fall. But you can quickly elevate them using metallic paint to add cute designs, phrases, or names. Another option is to wrap seasonal fabric around them like a pouch, gathered at the stem. If you feel more ambitious, you can also use pumpkins to make succulent planters. Cut a crater in the top of the pumpkin, pop in the succulent and soil, and press the dirt until snug.



#### **Light up the night.**

The soft glow of a lantern or candle is the perfect way to get the cozy vibes started. Instead of succulents in the top of your pumpkin, you can set wax and a candle wick to create something unique. If you're bored with pumpkins, try the same with acorn caps.

An even simpler idea involves glazing real or fabric leaves on the outside of mason jars with craft glue. Then add decorative stones and a wax or battery-operated tealight for a seasonal twinkle.

#### **Decorate your door.**

Wreaths are a DIY staple for several reasons. They're easy for beginners to make and can set the tone for your home by offering visitors an autumnal focal point. You can buy a variety of starter wreaths at the craft store, so find one that suits your taste. Then pick up other supplies like leaves, pine cones, dried corn, and ribbon. Now you're ready to hot glue to your heart's content and create something distinctive.

If you need further ideas, look closer the next time you shop. Many of the fun fall items for sale aren't very difficult to make yourself with a few minor adjustments and a little creativity.



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## From Workday Heroes to Family Time Champions

### *THE INCREDIBLE BALANCING ACT OF WORKING PARENTS*

When you think of a superhero, who's the first person that comes to mind? Perhaps you thought of Batman, Superman, Spider-Man, or another DC or Marvel character. But we have superheroes in our everyday lives that take on many responsibilities: working parents, those who do work-related duties by day and care for their children by night.

I have a lot of respect for those who balance their personal and professional roles. It's not an easy task trying to juggle these responsibilities. It can seem like you're pulled in multiple directions because, on top of ensuring your customers are receiving the best service possible, you also have to tend to your child's school needs, drive them to and from their extracurricular activities, take care of the household chores, and somehow find a few hours to spend quality time with your loved ones. It's hard to believe that all of this can be done in a single day!

My wife and I are both working parents. As you can imagine, we have our hands full every day. However, no matter how busy we get, our utmost priority is to be present with our kids.

Have you heard the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child"? Well, that phrase couldn't be more true! My wife and I couldn't handle household

matters and our kids alone, so I'm grateful and fortunate that I can hire additional help to assist us. Every so often, I will have people come by the house to make any repairs, mow the lawn, cook a few meals, and look after my children when my wife and I are at work.

If I go home and spend time completing household tasks, I'm not using my skills to the best of my ability. Being under the same roof as my kids isn't enough for me — I could be home and not see my son and daughter because I'm too focused on other matters. But by hiring additional help, I'm trading money for time. I get to be fully present with my family and nurture my relationships with them, and to me, that is a great exchange!

Now, I'm not saying you should avoid your household responsibilities. If cooking, making repairs, or mowing the lawn helps you decompress and allows you to transition into "parent mode," I highly encourage you to continue doing that! But for me, when I come home from work, I want to set my belongings down and turn my attention to my family because that's where my happiness and contentment come from.

When my wife and I are home, we enjoy doing fun activities with our kids. Every Sunday, I take my son and daughter to the park — this is their quality time with Daddy. Then, my wife and I will alternate date nights with our daughter on Saturdays. And since football season is back, we will all go to our favorite sports bar, munch on some food, and cheer on our favorite teams. We also enjoy taking trips together! This summer, we went to Asheville, North Carolina, and spent some time in the mountains — it was beautiful.

To all of the working parents, thank you for everything you do. I know how difficult it can be to balance your time between work and family. But I want you to know that your hard work and dedication will never go unnoticed. And if dealing with legal matters is infringing on time you could spend with your family, please allow me to assist you. Your family is essential, and I will do anything to ensure you see them as much as possible!

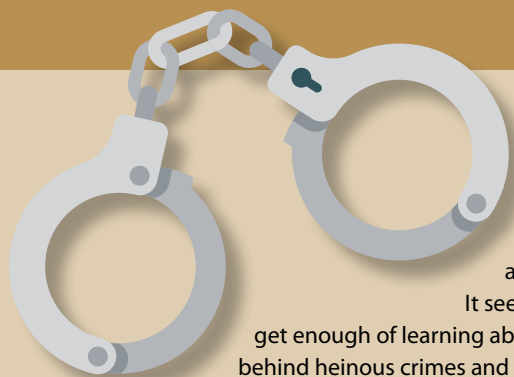
*-Marc L. Shapiro*





# HILARIOUS REAL-LIFE CRIMES

*They Seem Too Dumb to Be True!*



Today, we have tons of podcasts, YouTube videos, TikToks, and documentaries about true crime.

It seems like we can't get enough of learning about the person behind heinous crimes and their motives. But what about the crimes you can't help but laugh at because they're almost too funny to be true?

Here are two crimes you won't believe happened because of how silly and, for the lack of a better term, dumb they are!

### Don't forget to log out of Facebook!

Nicholas Wig broke into James Wood's house one night and stole his credit cards, cash, watches, and more. However, the 26-year-old thief left his Nike shoes, jeans, and a belt at the scene of the crime ... but that's not all.

When James got home, he was stunned to see his house had been broken into. But after realizing the thief had accessed Facebook on his

computer, he decided to post on Nicholas' account that he (Nicholas) had broken into his (James') home. James also shared his phone number in case anyone had any additional information.

Nicholas contacted James over text, and the two agreed to meet in person. The thief thought if he went to James' home and returned the stolen items, everything would be fine — but that's not how things played out. As soon as James spotted Nicholas walking toward his home, he called the police. When law enforcement arrived, they arrested the thief on the spot.

### Monopoly money doesn't work in the real world.

Michael Fuller stopped by Walmart to purchase a vacuum cleaner and microwave for \$476. But instead of paying with real money, he decided to pay using a million-dollar note from the game Monopoly. The gentleman then demanded that he receive \$999,524 from the cashier since he would need cash back for his "purchases." The cashier called the police, and Michael was charged with attempting to obtain property by false pretenses.

Can you believe these hilarious crimes?! Do you know of any we should highlight next time? We would love to hear from you!

# Mediation Made Easier

*4 Ways to Prepare for Your Upcoming Session*

When you go through a personal injury claim, one way you can resolve your case is through mediation. While the process can be a wonderful tool for settling your case, it's vital that you prepare yourself physically and mentally for the meeting.

Here are four things you should do before the mediation session begins.

### 1. Understand how mediation works.

Your attorney will outline the items presented during the session, who will participate in the process, and how to make a settlement decision. When you take time to learn what mediation is, it can help you avoid anxiety during the process and give you a better understanding of your role during the session and what questions you could be asked.

### 2. Gather evidence.

While we know and understand how the accident and injury drastically impacted your life, we must prove that to the courts. Therefore, you must collect as much evidence as possible to give to the insurance adjuster. You can include pictures of the incident, police reports, witness statements, or medical records and tests. We will assist you in gathering these documents and arguing them in a way that will give you the most earnings.

### 3. Prepare your mind and body.

Mediation can be a physically and emotionally exhausting process. Because of this, be sure you get a good night's rest and eat a nutritious meal before your session. It's also beneficial to clear your mind when going into mediation and ensure you're not distracted by other things happening around you — a distracted mind can lead to more emotional hardships.



### 4. Choose your attire wisely.

It's imperative that you make a great first impression on the insurance adjuster when you meet for the first time, as they have a say on how much the insurance company will offer you. And while it may not be fair to judge someone based on their appearance and what they wear to court, it plays a significant role in their decision and could be based on if they think a jury would like and favor you if the claim goes to court. Dress like you're going to an interview — the goal is to look and be as respectful as possible.

If you need assistance recovering fair compensation in your personal injury case, please reach out to us. We can help make your mediation session run as smoothly and seamlessly as possible.



## We're Open and Honest From the Beginning

What Our Clients Are Saying

*"Professionalism and integrity sum up **The Law Offices of Marc L. Shapiro**. I'm very satisfied from start to finish [with how my case was handled]. I would highly recommend this firm for all your legal needs. Shout out to Jessica and Randolph for a job well done!"*

—Donna S.

*"Marc and his team helped one of my employees after a car accident. She was being represented by another attorney and getting absolutely nowhere. But **The Law Offices of Marc L. Shapiro** took care of her, and she was extremely happy with all they did to represent her. Marc is great to talk to and really has always given honest and upfront counsel. I'm glad to have him on my side."*

—Taresa S.

*Your reviews offer us valuable feedback, but when you recommend our services to others, that's the ultimate form of praise! Please share your experiences with the Law Offices of Marc L. Shapiro, P.A., on Google or on [Facebook.com/AttorneyShapiroLaw](https://www.facebook.com/AttorneyShapiroLaw). Your comments empower us, make us better, and allow us to help others.*



## WALNUT AND BLUE CHEESE TOMATO SALAD

### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup walnuts
- 2 lbs ripe heirloom tomatoes
- Kosher salt, to taste
- Black pepper, to taste
- 1/4 cup smoked blue cheese, thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp fresh dill
- Chopped fresh Italian parsley, to taste
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp red wine or balsamic vinegar
- 1 garlic clove, finely minced

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. On a baking sheet, toast the walnuts in the oven for 12–14 minutes.
2. Wash and slice the tomatoes. Place slices on a platter, slightly overlapping. Sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste.
3. Scatter toasted walnuts and blue cheese on top, followed by dill and preferred amount of parsley.
4. In a small bowl, whisk olive oil, wine or vinegar, and garlic to make the dressing.
5. Spoon dressing evenly over salad and serve.

## Word Search

P	I	H	S	N	E	Z	I	T	I	C	V	A	D	V
Y	K	I	I	T	M	M	Y	H	I	L	I	J	L	Q
R	D	S	I	Y	N	K	O	M	Y	B	Y	C	I	K
R	O	E	Q	Y	M	E	J	O	L	D	K	D	S	S
G	H	S	T	O	Y	D	R	U	N	K	N	C	L	P
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L	V	F	I	E	E	Y	H	N	L	O	G	R	I	V
I	T	V	R	U	R	T	B	U	Z	H	N	T	Y	I

ASTER	HOMEWORK	PREPARE
BLUEBERRIES	LABOR	SCHOOL
CITIZENSHIP	LEAVES	VIRGO
GRANDPARENTS	MOONSTONE	WINDY