

Inside ⇄

Clearing Up Lawsuit Misconceptions
Page 1

Create a Relaxing Day for Mom

What Past Clients Remember
Page 2

Why Rear-End Cases Get Complicated

Creamy Spring Salmon
Page 3

How Dogs Decode Our Conversations
Page 4



BARKING UP THE RIGHT VOCABULARY

SOME PUPS ARE SECRET LINGUISTS

Does your dog quietly tilt their head at the mention of “treat” or “walk?” It turns out they’re not just getting ready to wag their tail; they’re actually listening. Our four-legged friends pick up on certain words we use often. But the cleverest canines can actually learn brand-new vocabulary by eavesdropping on everyday conversations. Does the latest study on canine communication from the journal *Science* mean your loyal pet might be a budding linguist?

Brainy Best Friends

Almost all dogs can hear the tone of our voice, recognize hand movements, or associate a word with a physical object they are shown. Only a handful of pups can learn the name of a new toy without even looking at it, as long as their human is glancing at the area where that toy is located. Bright breeds like border collies are particularly good at interpreting social cues to understand what their owners are talking about.

Word-Wise Woofers

Determining just how many words a dog can learn is tricky. Many dogs learn commands like “fetch,” but they wouldn’t



know the difference between “fetch the ball” or “fetch the Frisbee.” Only a small number of dogs can pick up on the difference and understand that certain names refer to specific objects. Some pups are naturals with language, and owners usually notice when their dog reacts correctly to words they did not train them to understand.

Typical Tail-Waggers

To test how these brainy dogs learn words that aren’t directed at them, cognitive scientist Shany Dror of Eötvös Loránd University and the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, experimented with her colleagues. The dog got to look at a new toy, and then their owner placed it out of sight in a bucket. The owner would talk to the dog, mention the toy’s name, and look at the bucket. It proved a challenge, and typical pet dogs just gave a head tilt. However, the word-wise woofers could retrieve that toy when asked.

So, the next time your dog perks up mid-conversation, they might be learning your language.

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GET YOUR LIFE BACK

The Truth About Personal Injury Claims

Imagine you are sitting at a red light on your way home from work. It’s an ordinary day. Then another car slams into you from behind, and in a few seconds, your normal routine is replaced by doctor visits, missed work, and a stack of bills you never asked for. For a lot of people in that situation, the biggest concern isn’t just how badly they’re hurt. It’s whether they should even make a claim for their injuries.

I see that hesitation all the time. Sometimes, a client will sit in my office and say, “I’m not the kind of person who sues.” For other clients, it comes out a little differently. They worry they are making too big a deal of it or hurting someone who just made a mistake. Many don’t want to be seen as sue-happy, opportunistic, or the kind of person trying to cash in on a big settlement.

A lot of this comes from what many of us have heard numerous times: “People just file lawsuits to get rich.” After all my years in personal injury law, I can tell you without hesitation that nothing could be further from the truth. I have never met any client who was looking to get rich off an injury. They are simply trying to get their lives back. In fact, most of my clients would trade any settlement amount for the accident never to have happened.

Unfortunately, there’s no way to erase the past. We can’t wave a magic wand and make an injury go away or restore everything lost after an accident. As personal injury attorneys, we can give clients a little stability back so they can focus on healing and moving forward with their lives.

Receiving compensation in a personal injury case isn’t like winning the lottery. That money covers medical bills and lost wages, helping ensure a person isn’t financially devastated by an accident they didn’t cause. Anyone who thinks it’s a windfall is seriously mistaken.

It’s also important to understand that insurance exists for exactly these situations. When someone causes an accident, the insurance they carry helps cover the harm that follows. In most cases, an injured person is not taking money directly out of someone else’s pocket. The claim is being



handled by an insurance company that took on that risk in exchange for years of premium payments.

The way I see it, personal injury law isn’t about lawsuits at all. This work is about accountability, fairness, and helping people recover after life takes an unexpected turn. Personally, one of the most rewarding parts of what I do is seeing the relief on a person’s face when they realize they don’t have to handle everything on their own and that someone is there to advocate for them during an extremely stressful time.

I want to reiterate that no one is getting rich off an injury claim. A claim can help protect your health, finances, and future. If you find yourself trying to recover after an accident you didn’t see coming, put your hesitation aside and get the guidance you need. The right advice early on can matter more than you think.

Marc L. Shapiro



A SIMPLE PLAN FOR MOTHER'S DAY

GIVING MOM REST, FUN, AND KEEPSAKES

Mother's Day is one of those holidays that can sneak up on you. Many of us have had to Google Mother's Day ideas the night before and hope brunch will be enough. While you don't want to wait until the last minute to plan, you don't need to stress over the holiday.

If asked, many moms would probably say the same thing about what they want: a little rest, some help, and to feel like someone sees how much they do. One simple way to give Mom what she wants this year is to think about the day in three parts. Start with a gentle beginning, then pick one shared thing to do together, and finish with a small keepsake she can hold onto later.

The "soft landing" in the morning sets the tone. Some moms want to sleep in for an hour with zero kid noise. Others like a slow breakfast with everyone at the table. You

don't need a perfect spread. Just some toast, fruit, and coffee (that she didn't have to make!) can go a long way. If she's tired, give her time to read, take a bath, or sit with a face mask while someone else handles dishes, pets, and doorbells.

Next comes the part you do together. For that, choose something she would enjoy doing, not just an activity that keeps the kids busy. If the weather is good, head outside for a picnic, hike, or family bike ride. Indoor activities can include a simple family game day, a movie marathon, or a family cooking class. Just be sure she's not the one left to clean up the mess!

For the keepsake, keep it personal. A handwritten note from the kids will mean much more than a scented candle. You can even turn it into a creative activity. Everyone

could sit down together for a family scrapbooking session or a painting party. Another fun idea is to create a "reason why I love mom" jar filled with handwritten notes from family members. With a little planning and a focus on appreciation, you can make the day feel special without adding more work to her plate.



A Simple Crash, A Harder Case

The Trouble With Rear-End Accidents

Many people assume that rear-end crashes are open-and-shut cases. Somebody hits you from behind, and the other driver gets the ticket or at least looks clearly at fault. At first, it seems like the other driver's insurance should cover everything without a fight. I understand why people might think that, but in my experience, these cases aren't always as simple as they look.

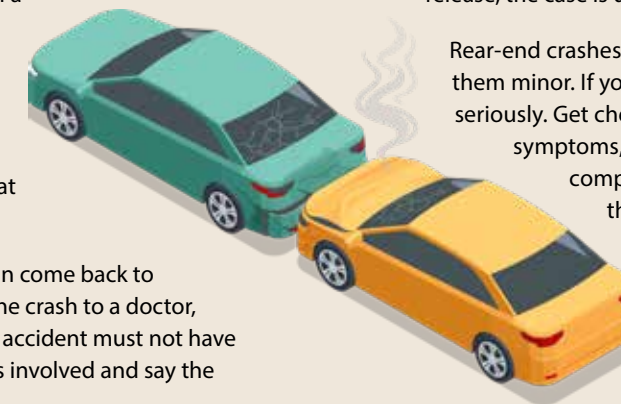
One reason things can get complicated is that the injuries can take time to show up. A person may leave the scene of a rear-end accident thinking they are mostly fine. Maybe they feel a little shaken up or a little sore, but there's no obvious injury right away. Then the next day, their neck tightens, or their lower back starts to hurt. Headaches might kick in, and what originally looked like "just a bump" suddenly feels very different. It's only then that people seek treatment.

The problem is that any delay in treatment can come back to hurt your case. If you don't go straight from the crash to a doctor, insurance companies have room to claim the accident must not have hurt you much. They may also look at the cars involved and say the

damage was minor, so your injuries must be minor, too. I see that all the time in rear-end cases. The argument stops being about liability and turns into whether you were really hurt and whether the accident actually caused your reported injuries.

I also see early settlement offers tempt people before they really know what they are dealing with. That is often a big mistake. If you take a settlement too early and then a week later find out you need more treatment, imaging, or therapy, you may be stuck. Once you sign that release, the case is usually over.

Rear-end crashes are common, but that doesn't make them minor. If you are involved in one, take things seriously. Get checked out, keep monitoring your symptoms, and don't assume the insurance company is going to give you the benefit of the doubt. You also want someone in your corner early. At *The Law Offices of Marc L. Shapiro, P.A.*, we know how these cases work and will fight to get you the compensation you may deserve.



Words From the People We Help
Why Families Trust Our Firm

"This office was so helpful and did so much for my family and me! They fought for us and made sure we had what we needed after the accident! They kept in touch with me throughout the entire case, checking in on me! I highly recommend them to anyone who is in need of a Personal Injury Attorney!"

—Jamie L.

"Marc is the best real estate and personal injury attorney in Naples! The employees at his firm are all top-notch! As far as I am concerned, we couldn't ask for better! I am grateful to have him, and I don't know what I would do without him! He is a very smart and wonderful man who is a valuable asset to our community! Thank you, Marc!"

—Becky B.

"My father lives in New York and was involved in a car accident. Although this firm was in another state, the treatment he received left a huge impression on him and our family. The Law Offices of Marc L. Shapiro, P.A. will forever represent us. Thank you to everyone, starting from their staff and all the way to Attorney Shapiro! A+++!"

—Nuela S.



"My mother had a slip and fall. After reading the reviews, we decided to reach out to The Law Offices of Marc L. Shapiro. We were assigned Attorney Randall Austin, and we are very pleased with his professionalism and customer service, as well as the other staff in the office, especially his assistant Jessica. Their service was excellent from our initial visit and throughout the process. We were always notified of where the case was and all upcoming events. They went above and beyond. We would highly recommend this law firm."

—Araceli A.



CREAMY SPRING SALMON

Ingredients

- 4 skinless salmon fillets
- 2 tsp kosher salt
- 1 tsp ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced shallots
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1 cup unsweetened, full-fat coconut milk
- Zest of 1/2 lemon
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh chives
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh dill
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh tarragon

Directions

1. Pat salmon dry with a paper towel and season both sides with salt and pepper.
2. In large skillet, heat the oil over medium heat.
3. Add salmon and cook 2–3 minutes. Flip and cook another 2–3 minutes. Remove from skillet.
4. To make the sauce, reduce heat to medium and add garlic and shallots.
5. Sauté for 1 minute, then add Dijon mustard and white wine. Whisk and cook for about 2 minutes.
6. Add coconut milk and simmer on medium-low heat.
7. Stir in lemon zest, lemon juice, chives, dill, and tarragon.
8. Add salmon to sauce and cook, uncovered, 3–5 minutes.

Inspired by *TheDefinedDish.com*

Word Search



BLOOM	EMERALD	MEMORIAL
CINCO	GEMINI	MOTHER
COMIC	GRADUATION	RENEWAL
DERBY	LILY	VETERANS