

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: While Technology Changes, Laws Don't Catch up! "Sexting" is a Crime!

by James Abrenio

For you kids out there (and parents, too!), be aware that so called "Sexting" will be prosecuted as a felony offense in Virginia, which can result in jail time and registration on the sex offender registry.

Case in point, recently, a prosecution in Prince William County made national headlines. A 17-year-old boy and his 15-year-old girlfriend allegedly exchanged racy photos and videos with each other. When the young girl's parents found out, they contacted police and the boy was then charged with manufacturing child pornography—of himself!

What was even more bizarre about this case was that in order to prove the boy guilty, law enforcement obtained a search warrant to require the boy to go to the hospital and have pictures taken of his private parts so that law enforcement could use those photos in his prosecution. Fortunately, given the national attention, law enforcement withdrew the request for the warrant.

The reason I felt the need to highlight this is not to criticize these prosecutions (while I personally feel they are ridiculous). Rather, it's to give a stern warning: Before you do anything with your phone or on the Internet, realize that your actions can lead to very embarrassing situations. But what's more, they can actually lead to serious



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prosecutions for crimes that WILL destroy your future. Obviously, here at BenGlassLaw, we are very much against sexting, and it's unfortunate that most kids have absolutely no idea that sexting can lead to a felony that will affect their careers for the rest of their lives.

Yes, that's probably unfair. Smartphones, social media and the like are technologies which simply weren't around when lawmakers drafted the law which is now being used to prosecute kids. Sadly, if they had been, I think there would be a change of heart as to what the law should be. But until there is a common-sense awakening, YOU must take it upon yourself to think before you act and to educate others. Don't sext! ■



"You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world."

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This newsletter is for informational purposes only and no legal advice is intended.

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How to Prepare for Young Drivers on the Road during Back-to-School Season

more likely to cause a crash if they are driving with teen passengers or if it's their first month with their licenses. Plus, we all know how easily teens are distracted in the smartphone age; texting and driving is a whole new beast that Virginia laws are just this summer starting to deal with more aggressively.

This should all make sense, really—without driving experience, young drivers are more likely to misjudge situations, forget important traffic laws, and miscalculate the size and speed of their cars—but that doesn't mean you shouldn't be prepared.



Thankfully, there are steps you can take to ensure that you and your loved ones are properly taken care of in the event of an unfortunate, unavoidable accident.

Aside from the fundamentals (wear your seatbelt, drive the speed limit, be alert, and drive

defensively), you should also make sure that you have full Uninsured Motorist Coverage. In Virginia, most people don't know that it is legal to drive without insurance. Uninsured motorists just pay a fee to the state every year and go about their business.

This means that should an accident happen with an uninsured driver, you will need a comprehensive uninsured motorist plan from your insurance company (not just the bare minimum) to recover fully.

Trust me, it's easier to ask these questions beforehand than after the fact. Be smart, drive safely, and make sure you're fully covered with so many young drivers getting on Virginia roads during back-to-school season. ■

BGL's Best Bites CROCKPOT BARBEQUE CHICKEN *by Sandi Glass*



Ingredients:

- 4–6 pieces boneless, skinless chicken breasts (I throw them in frozen, even easier)
- 1 bottle BBQ sauce (our favorite is Sweet Baby Ray's)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c vinegar
- 1 tsp. red pepper flakes
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ –1 tsp. garlic powder

Preparation:

- 1 Mix BBQ sauce with all ingredients listed below it; place chicken in crockpot.
- 2 Pour sauce over it and cook on LOW for 4-6 hours.
- 3 Shred the chicken and serve on rolls. To make that process even easier, I use the Pampered Chef salad chopper.
- 4 Freeze leftovers in individual serving containers and you have an easy after school snack or meal on the run for kids.

Four chicken breasts feed our family of 7 with leftovers. When we are all home, I use six chicken breasts to yield 12 servings. ■

Thank You, Teresa Grimes, for Your "Biggest Smile"

At BenGlassLaw, we almost always enter the lives of our clients through unfortunate circumstances. That is bound to happen when you are working with people who are dealing with accidents, injuries, medical malpractice, and long-term disability issues.

Over the course of working on someone's case, which at times includes up to two or more years of fighting for them and serving as their advocate, we often develop a close connection with them. In the case of Teresa Grimes, that connection will be associated forever with what everyone in the office referred to as "the biggest smile."

Amber Dengler, one of our paralegals, was often one of the first people to see Teresa when she came into the office for meetings. "Seeing Teresa come into the office and talking to her on the phone always brightened my day," said Amber. "She had the biggest smile and an even bigger heart. She always buzzed around town and was quite the social butterfly."

Teresa, prior to her passing on August 18, 2014, and through eight decades of life, had been a nurse, a loving wife (to Eugene Grimes,

who passed away in 1999 after 46 years of marriage), a mother, and someone who was quick to be kind to all those around her.

James Abrenio, an attorney who helped with Teresa's case, fondly recalled, "I remember when she first walked in, still in pain from her injuries. She was adamant that she would keep moving forward. She would tell me that the key to life is to keep active, keep positive, and eat healthily. What's funny is that for lunch, I often go to Safeway right around the corner. And on multiple occasions, she would be there shopping. Her cart was filled with fresh produce, and her face would always have the biggest smile. She truly practiced what she preached."

We are grateful to have been a part of Teresa's life after she came to us due to suffering serious injuries after a fall in 2012 which



Always smiling, Teresa Grimes made everyone feel happier just for knowing her.

was unrelated to her recent passing. Her "biggest smile" will certainly leave a mark on all of our team members and those who were fortunate enough to have known her. We want to thank Teresa and her family for allowing us to work on behalf of such a wonderful person. ■

(Note: we were able to prove that the management company in charge of where she fell had been negligent in their upkeep and we achieved a successful result for her—even after the company tried to cover up a serious defect and got others to lie about it.)

Reminder About Our Firm's Communication Policy

Our promise to you is that while we are working on your case, we don't take inbound phone calls, faxes or emails. Ben Glass takes no inbound unscheduled phone calls whatsoever. It makes him much more productive and helps get your case resolved faster. You can always call the office at 703-544-7876, and schedule an in-person or phone appointment, usually within 24-48 hours. This is a lot better than the endless game of "phone tag" played by most businesses today. Remember, too, that email is "quick," but is checked no more than twice a day. Replies are then scheduled into the calendar. So if it's really important, don't email—call the office instead.

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and small business issues. It is not intended to be legal advice. Every case is different. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

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How to Prepare for Young Drivers on the Road during Back-to-School Season

It's that time of year again. Back-to-school season is in full swing, and that means high school juniors and seniors will be starting driver's ed and venturing out onto Northern Virginia roads. With so much to think about as the summer winds down, a lot of families forget that it's one of the most important times of year to be alert—and prepared for every eventuality.

Getting a driver's license is one of the biggest milestones in a teenager's young adult life. It means freedom, independence, and responsibility. The best and safest drivers on the road all have years of driving experience, something that, by nature, a teenager can't have. As a result, it is young drivers who make the most mistakes and unintentionally

endanger the most lives on the road.

Our most recent data from 2010 tells us that driving teens (ages 16-19) are 3 times as likely to be involved in a fatal crash than any other age group. Despite being only 14% of the population, teen drivers are involved in 30%



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of the costs of all motor vehicle injuries. To dive even deeper into the stats, teens are even

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