

# MCGRATH LAW FIRM

A Professional Association

Former federal prosecutor, Peter McGrath, and his team of lawyers will fight for you.

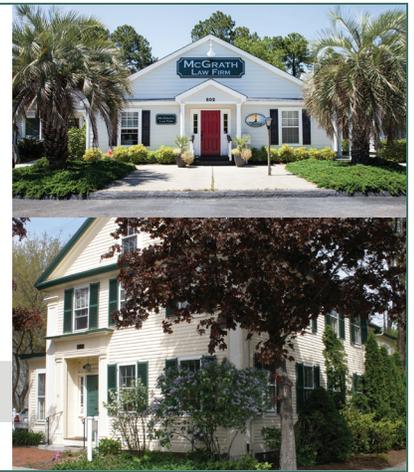
Newsletter

Winter 2017

[www.mcgrathlawfirm.com](http://www.mcgrathlawfirm.com) and [www.mcgrathlawfirm.com](http://www.mcgrathlawfirm.com)

Page 1

Winter 2017, Vol 3



## In This Issue...

- ✓ Nursing Home Abuse Can Take Many Forms
- ✓ Distracted Driving Can Be Deadly
- ✓ Lithium batteries, the same type of batteries used in electronic cigarettes and vaporizers, have been linked to several explosions nationwide
- ✓ Recipe of the Month Herbed Chicken & Spinach Soup
- ✓ What's Happening in Concord, NH & Mount Pleasant, SC
- ✓ **Editor's Note: Subsequent issues of this newsletter will highlight topics concerning our other practice areas, such as business law, medical malpractice, personal injury, real estate matters, criminal defense law and civil litigation.**

## Nursing Home Abuse Can Take Many Forms

Relocating a family member to a nursing home is a difficult decision, but the thought that there may be neglect or even abusive conditions makes the decision even more complicated.

In 2014 there were 14,258 complaints received by a government reporting system that involved abuse, gross negligence or exploitation of

residents in nursing homes or residential care communities (National Center on Elder Abuse NCEA). With more than 2 million Americans residing in these facilities, a large number of this vulnerable and growing population is a risk.

In order to participate in Medicare and Medicaid, nursing homes and similar facilities must meet all the requirements of the federal Nursing Home Reform Act. This law protects residents' rights and establishes facility standards, among other requirements.

### Nursing Home Abuse - It's Not Just Physical

Physical mistreatment may be the first thing that comes to mind when you think of nursing home abuse. Injuries like broken bones, burns, wounds, bruises or unexplained weight loss or injuries are signs of physical abuse.

But abuse and neglect of those in nursing homes can take many other forms including:  
....continued on page 2



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## ....continued from page 1 **Nursing Home Abuse Can Take Many Forms**

- Mental abuse - watch for signs of fear, disorientation, confusion, withdrawal or depression or unusual behavior changes.
- Neglect occurs when a resident receives inadequate medical, physical or emotional attention and can include an unsanitary environment, untreated medical conditions, inadequate personal hygiene, improperly administered medications, dehydration or malnutrition and injuries from failure to supervise such as falling.
- Financial exploitation can manifest as stolen or missing money or property or an unexplained change to the individual's legal will.

### **Act To Stop Nursing Home Abuse**

If you suspect nursing home abuse or neglect, speak to the facility management and alert them to the problem. If the facility's response is unsatisfactory, call the National Council on Aging for Adult Protective Services information in your area (telephone 1-800-677-1116).

It's also a good idea to discuss the situation with an experienced nursing home abuse attorney to explore possible legal action. **The staff at McGrath Law Firm has extensive experience in handling nursing home negligence cases.**

You can find more information at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

## **Distracted Driving Can Be Deadly**

Today's culture makes it essential to stay connected 24/7 with cell phones. However, misuse of mobile devices while driving is an increasingly dangerous distraction, especially texting. In 2014, there were more than 431,000 people injured and 3,179 killed in crashes in the United States that involved a distracted driver ([www.Distracted.gov](http://www.Distracted.gov)).

Any activity that takes the driver's attention from the road is distracting, even eating, drinking or changing the music. But texting is the most distracting of all because it encompasses all 3 types of distraction:

- Visual distraction,
- Manual distraction when 1 or more hands is off the wheel, **and**
- Cognitive distraction when the driver is thinking of other things.

Consider this fact: It takes about 5 seconds to send a text. At 55 mph, a car could travel the length of a football field in 5 seconds with the driver's attention completely distracted!

Texting while driving is banned in New Hampshire and South Carolina. In both states, texting while driving is a primary offense meaning that police officers can pull you over if they suspect you of texting while driving without any other observed offense.

### **Share the Dangers of Distracted Driving with Your Teenager**

Teens are more likely to text while driving than any other age group. Talk to your child about the dangers of texting and driving and make sure he understands that the prohibition includes even glancing at a phone to read a text.

Set ground rules not only about texting while driving but about other distractions like extra passengers, cell phone use and loud music. You'll find helpful information and pointers at [Distraction.gov](http://Distraction.gov), including a section written specifically for teen drivers with a driving pledge.

If you or a family member has experienced nursing home abuse or has been injured in an auto accident or any other type of personal injury, it's important to get an attorney experienced in these types of cases involved immediately. **Call McGrath Law Firm in Mount Pleasant, SC at 843-606-2755 or in Concord, NH at 603-224-7111 for your free case review.** McGrath Law Firm has experienced personal injury lawyers in South Carolina and New Hampshire who will help you pursue this or any other personal injury claim.



## Lithium batteries, the same type of batteries used in electronic cigarettes and vaporizers, have been linked to several explosions nationwide

McGrath Law Firm has filed a lawsuit against the manufacturer and store that sold a vapor cigarette which exploded in a client's pocket. The client received second- and third-degree burns, and underwent significant treatment and a long, painful recovery.

"The public needs to be aware about the possible dangers involved with e-cigarettes and vaporizers. My client would hate to see this happen to someone else," Attorney McGrath said. "More and more people are vaping, thinking it's a safe alternative to smoking. But there are serious risks involved."

Lithium batteries, the same type of batteries that are used in electronic cigarettes and vaporizers, have replaced lead acid batteries as the most common type of power source for portable consumer electronics. What is really concerning is that lithium batteries have been linked to several explosions nationwide, yet the public doesn't seem to be aware of the possible dangers.

The lawsuit requests payment for medical bills, treatment, and pain and suffering. Other victims have been calling McGrath Law Firm with similar claims.

McGrath Law Firm urges parents to be aware that teens and young adults are being targeted by big companies with vaping products that are available in fruit, candy and dessert flavors. It's easy for them to buy these products online.



## Recipe of the Month Herbed Chicken & Spinach Soup

Enjoy this hearty soup for dinner -- let your crockpot do the work!

### Ingredients

- 1 pound boneless skinless chicken thighs, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 can (16 ounces) kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 14-1/2 ounces chicken broth
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 medium sweet red pepper, chopped
- 1 celery rib, chopped
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary or 1/4 teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon minced fresh thyme or 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 3 cups fresh baby spinach
- 1/4 cup shredded Parmesan cheese

### Directions

In a 3-qt. slow cooker, combine the first 13 ingredients. Cover and cook on low for 4-5 hours or until chicken is tender. Stir in spinach; cook 30 minutes longer or until spinach is wilted. Top with cheese. Yield: 4 servings.

Recipe courtesy of [tasteofhome.com](http://tasteofhome.com)



# What's Happening in Concord, NH & Mount Pleasant, SC

## Feb 3 - 11

Smokey Joe's Cafe'  
Palace Theatre  
Manchester, NH  
<https://goo.gl/xPbLzV>

## Feb 26

Foreigner  
North Charleston Coliseum and PAC  
North Charleston, SC  
<https://goo.gl/H3f60t>

## March 14

Gordon Lightfoot  
The Charleston Music Hall  
Charleston, SC  
<https://goo.gl/gILfef>

## Feb 19

Ariana Grande  
SNHU Arena (formerly Verizon Wireless)  
Manchester, NH  
<https://goo.gl/MDIAjl>

## March 3

Luke Bryan & Brett Eldredge  
SNHU Arena (formerly Verizon Wireless)  
Manchester, NH  
<https://goo.gl/gw5Bys>

## March 17

Chicago  
North Charleston Coliseum and PAC  
North Charleston, SC  
<https://goo.gl/RIF4up>

## Feb 25

Miranda Lambert with Old Dominion and  
Aubrie Sellers  
North Charleston Coliseum and PAC  
North Charleston, SC  
<https://goo.gl/XApvwU>

## March 3 - 25

Hairspray  
Palace Theatre  
Manchester, NH  
<https://goo.gl/ouEQWZ>

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