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The holidays have arrived, and it's time for Thanksgiving, a day for spending quality time with family and expressing gratitude for our many blessings. In 1621, the Wampanoags and Pilgrims shared the first Thanksgiving to celebrate their first successful harvest. Believe it or not, their feast lasted three days.

This year, some normalcy has returned, and we are getting back in the groove of things. Last year was the first year I didn't spend Thanksgiving with my family, and I'm looking forward to resuming the tradition. I'm thrilled to catch up with my parents, my grandfather, and all of my loved ones in person while enjoying a fabulous meal.

There is much to be thankful for. Throughout the pandemic, it has been easy to focus on the negative things and become consumed with frustration. However, when that happens, it's important to stop and remember all we are blessed with. There is so much kindness in the world, and we should practice gratitude for the little things: the person who held the door for you when your hands were full, the generous individual who randomly paid for your coffee, and the little child who smiled at you in line at the grocery store.

"My clients teach me something new every day and provide me the opportunity to do something I love each day while helping others and changing lives."

I am grateful for a place to call home, my health, the health of my loved ones, strong friendships, and my coworkers. My clients teach me something new every day and provide me the opportunity to do something I love each day while helping others and changing lives. After the hurricane in Louisiana, many are still living in disarray. I am extremely fortunate for things like electricity and clean water that many people are still lacking. As we know in Florida, spending more than an hour in this heat without air conditioning is brutal.

This Thanksgiving, make the time spent with your loved ones count. Be sure to put down your phones and concentrate on building upon the relationships you are blessed with. Try to come up with some fun family activities everyone can do together. Baking activities, family games, family hikes, or even spending time swapping memories and stories are always enjoyable. I've noticed that, as a society, we have become so dependent upon screen time instead of interacting face to face — even kids are missing out on playing outside. It's important to engage in human interaction.

While a huge Thanksgiving tradition is watching football with the family, consider putting together a backyard football game! Anything to spark up some interaction this holiday will create lasting memories. For those you may not be able to see this holiday season, make a point of calling or video chatting with them to catch up and let them know how grateful you are to have them in your life. The shared gratitude goes a long way and is sure to make their day! After all, it's Thanksgiving, and these relationships are so important to hold on to and build upon!

I wish you a happy Thanksgiving and hope your holiday is filled with joy, gratitude, and lots of delicious food!

Josh Whisler

HOW ONE DOG SAVED HIS OWNER BY DIALING 911

Dogs can be trained to obey a lot of commands: sit, stay, roll over, play dead. But how about “dial 911”? Well, that would probably be a foreign command for most dogs. Luckily, it wasn't for Buddy, an 18-month-old German shepherd who remembered his training and saved his owner's life.

Joe Stalaker of Scottsdale, Arizona, sustained a head injury during a military training exercise 10 years prior to the incident. Because of that injury, he suffered from seizures. Normally, a condition like that would make it unwise for him to live alone, but Stalaker valued his independence and wanted to find a way to lead as normal a life as possible.

Joe adopted Buddy from a Michigan-based organization called Paws With a Cause when the pup was just 8 weeks old. Paws with a Cause trains assistance dogs, and after adopting him, Joe trained Buddy to dial 911 until an operator was on the line in the event that he had a seizure.

A year and a half later, that training saved Joe's life. One day, Joe began seizing when he was home alone with Buddy. Buddy rushed to the phone and dialed 911, whimpering to the dispatcher. Even if they



don't hear anyone on the line, dispatchers are required to send police. When police arrived at Joe's home, they found him and Buddy, who was barking loudly. They took Joe to the nearby hospital, where in a few days, he made a full recovery.

Some might say that Buddy was just following his training, but this heroic act goes far beyond just sitting and rolling over for treats. Even the veteran dispatchers hadn't heard of a dog dialing 911 before. Buddy knew it was his mission to keep his owner safe, and thankfully, he knew exactly what to do under pressure — because that's what heroes do.



Wills and Trusts: What's the Difference?

Every estate plan requires a will or a trust. They are extremely similar, but there are some differences you should be aware of when it comes to deciding which better suits your needs. Both are used for designating who gets your assets, but they do it in different ways.

A will is a document that provides instructions for whom you would like to receive your belongings and money in the event you pass away. Even if you don't believe your assets are worth enough to have a will, you will likely benefit from having one.

A trust is commonly, but wrongly, thought to be only for the wealthy. A trust is just a more detailed way to provide instructions for how your money and belongings should be distributed upon your passing.

Unlike a trust, which goes into effect immediately when it is funded and signed, a will doesn't go

into effect until you pass away. Wills are usually much simpler than trusts and allow you to name guardians for your children and pets, specify your final arrangements, and designate how your assets are dispersed. Trusts, however, offer much more control over the disbursement of assets. For example, you can control the age at which an individual can receive funds or assets and what they use them for. So, if you want a grandchild to receive a certain amount of money at 18 years of age for college, a trust can make certain this happens.

Having a knowledgeable and reliable estate planning attorney is essential when it comes time to draw up your will or trust or to make a decision on which better suits your needs. Wills and trusts can be tricky, but we can help. For all questions and assistance, call us today!

Beware of Insurance Companies

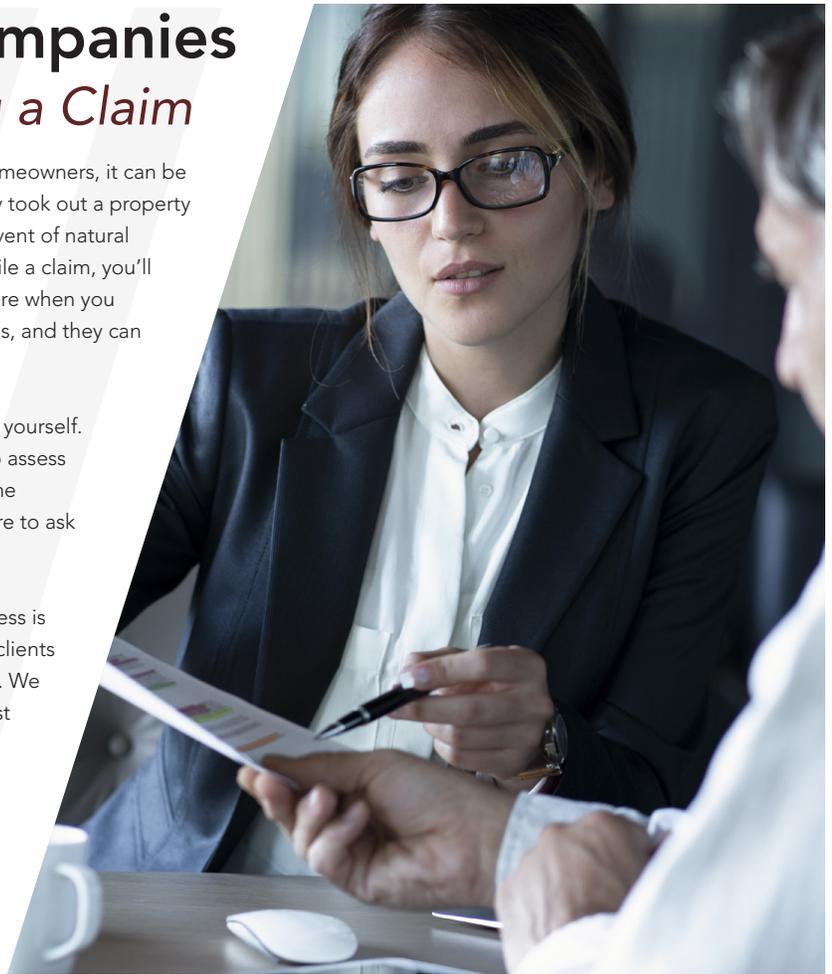
Hire an Attorney Before Filing a Claim

While a property insurance claim is routine for insurance companies, for homeowners, it can be an intricate, and even traumatizing, experience. As a homeowner, you likely took out a property insurance policy because it's the best way to protect your property in the event of natural disasters, other property damage, and lawsuits. However, when you go to file a claim, you'll find that your insurance company is not as warm and welcoming as they were when you enrolled in the policy. Insurance companies strive to avoid paying out claims, and they can be very good at it.

With property damage claims, you should be doing a few things to protect yourself. First, take note of whom the insurance company sends out to your home to assess the damage to your property. Are they licensed and insured? Remember, the representative is working for the insurance company, not for you. So, be sure to ask for a business card and keep track of everyone who comes to your home.

Next, hiring an attorney to assist you in navigating the stressful claims process is important. Here at The Whisler Law Firm, we are dedicated to helping our clients receive the monetary justice they deserve in the event of property damage. We stand by our clients' sides until the insurance company provides fair and just compensation. Going into negotiations with the insurance company alone, without representation, is simply setting yourself up for failure.

If your home sustains damage and you plan to file an insurance claim, contact us immediately, and we will walk you through the steps to ensure you do not get taken advantage of. Our goal is to make sure you receive what you deserve, and we won't stop until we achieve that goal.



DID YOU KNOW?

**You can visit
WhislerLawFirm.com and
access our highly informative
webinars any time!**

**Also, sign up for a
complimentary Will or
Trust consultation!**

Questions?

Call 833-529-5677

*"The best and most beautiful things
in the world cannot be seen or
even touched — they must be
felt with the heart."*

– Helen Keller

EASY CRANBERRY-APPLE SALAD

Want the taste of fall without the calories? Try this quick and easy salad, topped with homemade apple cider vinaigrette.

INGREDIENTS

For the salad:

- 1/4 cup dried pumpkin seeds
- 5 cups salad mix
- 2 Granny Smith apples, chopped into bite-size pieces
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries
- 1/3 cup goat cheese, crumbled

For the dressing:

- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 1/2 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- 1 1/2 tsp honey
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

1. In a skillet over medium heat, toast the pumpkin seeds until fragrant, then set aside.
2. In a small jar or bowl, whisk together all dressing ingredients, then set aside.
3. Combine all salad ingredients in a large bowl. Drizzle with dressing until lightly coated, then toss and serve!

Inspired by CookieAndKate.com

We're so grateful for all the feedback on our newsletter! If you have anything you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Harvesting the Season of Thanksgiving
- 2 Dog Calls 911 to Save Owner
- 2 The Difference Between Wills and Trusts
- 3 Hire an Attorney Before Filing an Insurance Claim
- 3 Easy Cranberry-Apple Salad
- 4 The First Thanksgiving Menu



THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

What Was on the Menu?

Every Thanksgiving, we gather with our families and friends and pig out. Turkey, cranberry sauce, and stuffing, oh my! But did the Pilgrims actually eat all the same foods we do today?

When we sit down at the Thanksgiving table, we are blessed with mashed potatoes, candied yams, green bean casserole, turkey, stuffing, and pumpkin pie. However, if we wanted to be historically accurate, we would need to change up that dinner spread a bit.

Historians know of a few foods on the table that Pilgrims and Wampanoags shared at Plymouth Colony in 1621. Wildfowl, corn (in grain form for porridge), and venison were sure to be served at the first Thanksgiving. Wild turkey was also a common and abundant food source but wasn't likely the main course as it is today. A few days before the first Thanksgiving, the colony's governor put four men in charge of hunting for birds for the feast, and they very likely returned with some turkey.

However, as far as mashed potatoes are concerned, in the early 1600s, most Europeans and the Wampanoag had no idea what a potato was. They weren't cultivated in North America until the 1700s. Likewise, cranberries were still very new to the Pilgrims, and they didn't yet use them for food — instead, they used them to make dyes for fabrics!

For dessert, pumpkin pie was not yet a thing either. Although the Pilgrims liked pumpkins, they didn't

have the butter and wheat flour needed to make pie crust. Instead, they hollowed out the pumpkins (just like Halloween!) and filled them with milk and honey to make a custard and then roasted them.

Although our Thanksgiving meals have changed over the years, it still is a fantastic time to get together and celebrate. In the spirit of evolving traditions, don't be afraid to innovate to add your own personal traditional twist to the holiday as well!

