

HANKEY LAW OFFICE

Experience. Compassion. Justice.

434 E. New York Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202

(317) 634-8565 | news@hankeylaw.com | HankeyLaw.com

MAY/JUNE 2021



From our office

Welcome to the first Hankey Law Office newsletter of 2021! It may look a bit different than it has in the past, so we hope you like it!

Our newsletter is not the only change that's happened this year! Recently, attorneys Stacy Crider and Ashley Marks were named partners of the Hankey Law Office. They have each been practicing attorneys here for over a decade, and we are so excited for them to step into these new roles!

Our office is also excited to announce that we hired a new attorney, Kate Brinkmeyer, to join our team! Kate has been practicing law since 2008, and before coming to work at our office, worked for several years for the Social Security Administration. Her first-hand knowledge into how the Social Security Administration handles cases allows her to be a valuable advocate for her clients. She will be focusing on Social Security disability hearings and federal court appeals.

Like last year, our office is still handling matters remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thankfully, we have the technology available to us to allow us to complete all aspects of our legal services without the need for clients to even leave their homes. It is very important to us that we play our part in keeping everyone safe! Rest assured, we are still hard at work!

Social Security disability hearings are also still taking place remotely. This means that you, your attorney, and the Administrative Law Judge will be on a conference call together, which you can attend from the comfort and safety of your home. So far, we have not been given a timeline from the Social Security Administration on when the hearings office will reopen for in-person hearings again.

We are hopeful that things will soon be operating as they have in the past, but until then, our office has adapted quickly to these changes and we continue to serve you without interruption. As always, we understand that choosing your attorney was a big decision, and we deeply value the trust that you placed in our firm.

*-Charles,
Stacy & Ashley*



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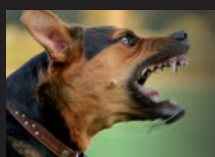
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5 Mistakes to Avoid When Filing a Disability Claim

Filing for Social Security Benefits can be a complicated and confusing process. Here are some common mistakes to avoid:

- 1. Not including all of your medical conditions.** When you file for disability, it is important you include on your application all of your health conditions, both physical and mental. The Social Security Administration will look at you as a whole person. This means that while one of your conditions may not have been enough to qualify, the combination of all of your conditions could allow you to be approved for benefits.
- 2. Not filing your appeal.** It is very common to be denied at the early stages of the disability process, called the initial and reconsideration levels. Don't give up! It is important to appeal within the timeframes specified so that your case can eventually be heard by an Administrative Law Judge at the hearing level. It is at the hearing level where most people are approved for benefits.
- 3. Not following your doctor's recommendations.** It is very important that when the Judge reviews your medical records, they see that you are following your doctor's medical advice, taking your medications as prescribed, and attending your doctor visits. If you are unable to afford a particular test or medication, make sure you report this to your doctor so that fact can be included in your medical records. If you are not feeling well enough to attend a visit, make sure you call and cancel the appointment in advance.
- 4. Not using prescribed assistive devices.** If your doctor has prescribed you an assistive device, such as a cane or walker, it is important you use it. When you attend medical examinations, your doctor will note whether or not you are using the device. In reviewing these medical records, the Judge will then be able to see whether you truly use your assistive device or not. Make sure your prescription for your assistive device is included as evidence in your case as well.
- 5. Assuming that you cannot afford an attorney.** Our office is paid on a contingency basis, which means we only get paid if we get a recovery for you. Consultations are always free. So, this means you do not need any money up front to hire an attorney to help you with your claim.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed every May since 1949, when it was started by the Mental Health America organization. One in five Americans experience mental illness each year and this annual effort to raise awareness of the problem has helped the nation work towards solutions. We still have a long way to go; less than half of those suffering from mental illness get treatment. Along with raising awareness in general, mental health professionals also want to change the way we think about mental illness. By treating it in a similar way to physical illnesses, we can get more help to those who need it. If you know someone struggling with mental illness, encourage them to seek help.

Sunshine word find puzzle

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

GREEN
VERNAL
BUDDING
FLOWERS
BEES
SHOWERS
EASTER
MEMORIAL DAY
EQUINOX
BLOSSOM
GRADUATION
PASTEL
RAINY
DAFFODIL
POLLEN

Asparagus season may run through the spring months from March to June but it hits its prime in April. If you can get your hands on some quality in-season asparagus, give this recipe a try. We shine a spotlight on the star ingredient with a supporting cast of creamy white wine sauce, deeply infused with fragrant lemony notes and a nice salty Parmesan kick.

The key to acing this dish is to cook the asparagus until its tips are crispy and stalks slightly blistered. The slight char will add a whole other dimension to the enticing flavor of this vegetable.



Lemon Asparagus Pasta

Ingredients:

1 lb. penne pasta
1 lb. thin asparagus, trimmed and cut into 2" pieces
3 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
1 small onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
1/2 c. heavy cream
1 c. dry white wine, such as Sauvignon Blanc

1 lemon, zested and juiced
1 tsp. kosher salt
1/2 c. freshly grated Parmesan, plus more for serving
1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper, plus more for serving
1/4 c. fresh parsley, finely chopped
1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes

Directions:

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add penne and cook according to package directions, until al dente. Reserve 1/2 cup pasta water, then drain. Set aside.
2. Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium-high heat, heat 1 tablespoon oil. Cook asparagus until crispy, then season with pinch of salt. Transfer to a plate and set aside.
3. Heat remaining 2 tablespoons oil over medium heat. Cook onions and garlic until softened, about 5 minutes. Add heavy cream, white wine, lemon juice, and zest. Bring mixture to a boil, then simmer for 5 minutes. Add in salt, Parmesan, and black pepper. Reduce heat to low and mix until well combined.
4. Turn off heat and mix in pasta, asparagus, and parsley until well coated. Add small amounts of pasta water until you reach desired consistency. Serve with more grated Parmesan, cracked black pepper, and red pepper flakes.



Dog Bites Should Not Be Taken Lightly

At Hankey Law Office, we love our furry companions! However, not all pet owners are responsible, and such owners should be held accountable when their pets bite or attack others. Unfortunately, dog bites occur more often than many realize. The total number of dog bites each year in the United States is estimated to be more than 4 million, with over 800,000 of those individuals requiring medical attention.

If you or a loved one are bitten by a dog, or any other animal, it is important to promptly seek medical attention. A doctor can treat the injury, and help you avoid any bite-related complications, like infections. Make sure to follow your entire treatment plan, even once your injury starts to heal.

The dog owner's insurance company may reach out to you and ask for your statement, or offer to compensate you for your injury. Before you do either, speak to a lawyer! Depending on the circumstances, you may be entitled to recover damages for medical expenses, lost wages, and pain and suffering. Remember, it is not the insurance company's job to make sure you are fully compensated!

Our attorneys routinely handle dog bite cases, and can help you truly understand what your case is worth. Consultations are always free, and we are only paid if we get a recovery for you.



Referrals

The greatest compliment we can receive is the referral of a family member or friend.



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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional legal advice. For your specific situation, please call the appropriate legal professional.

Practice Areas

With 80 years of combined experience, both in and out of the courtroom, the legal professionals of the Hankey Law Office can resolve cases involving:

Disability Claims (SSDI/SSI)
Federal Court Appeals
Long Term Disability
Short Term Disability
ERISA Litigation
Personal Injury

Car Accidents
Truck Accidents
Motorcycle Accidents
Bicycle Accidents
Railroad Crossing/Train Accidents
Highway Defects

Dangerous Drugs and Devices
Premises Liability
Product Liability
Brain/Head Injuries
Spinal Injuries
Dog Bites /Animal Attacks



HANKEY
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Child Injuries
Construction Accidents
Burn Injuries
Drowning

Employees of the Month

We wanted to recognize our recent employees of the month: Anna, Jacob, and Jamie!



Anna is a Case Administrator who works extremely hard and has been efficient and reliable in her years at the Hankey Law Office. She also ensures all medical records are ordered for clients' hearings.



Jacob is our Field Intake Specialist who conducted home visits prior to the pandemic. Since then, he's been in the office helping new clients with DocuSign and is a big reason we have been able to continue to operate safely and still help our clients.



Jamie is our Appeals Department Coordinator and has been burning the candle at both ends to make sure all of the appeals are submitted quickly. She is reliable, organized and always shows up to work with a great attitude.

These are just a few examples of the wonderful team members at the Hankey Law Office who help make all of the moving parts of a case flow smoothly. We are so lucky to have such a dedicated team!