

Happy Thanksgiving

This is the time of the year when we take time to remember all those things we are thankful for. In this newsletter, we share some of our thanksgiving memories. There is also an article about Thanksgiving Thoughts or counting your blessings. Our legal article of the month is about how to keep your children thankful even if you are going through a divorce.



One of our blessings that we are always grateful for is the people we have been privileged to represent. So far this year, we have helped over 230 individuals start on the path of becoming debt free through either a Chapter 7 or a Chapter 13 bankruptcy or start over through a divorce. We thank each one of you who have allowed us to assist you during your difficult times.

We wanted to take a moment and share some of our **THANKSGIVING MEMORIES**:

Edrie Pfeiffer:

I have always enjoyed holidays from an early age. Take a look at the picture of me at about age 2 thoroughly enjoying myself at a holiday gathering. One of my favorite holidays has



always been Thanksgiving. I enjoy the reason for the holiday as a chance to gather with family or friends to celebrate all that we have to be thankful for. I have many memories of different Thanksgivings, like the time that my Mom caught the roles on fire in the oven. However, there are two Thanksgiving dinners that really stick out in my mind. The first is the very first Thanksgiving dinner that I prepared myself. I was in the military and living so far from home to join my family for the holiday. I had a college friend who was living near by and we decided to celebrate together. I had to call my Mom several times during the day to get instructions on how to do some part of the meal but it all turned out great. The second picture is of that first Thanksgiving meal that I prepared. The other Thanksgiving is memorable for a different reason. It is the first time that I celebrated a holiday with my husband's family. We gathered at one of his siblings house's for the meal. My sister-in-law served dressing with the turkey. Now I love stuffing (the kind that gets cooked in the bird) but this was dressing, prepared like a casserole. Since I love stuffing, I took a nice serving of it. When I took my first bite, I discovered that she had chopped up the liver and giblets very finely and mixed them in the dressing. I hate liver and I mean I HATE LIVER. So there I am trying to be

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Happy Thanksgiving

polite, make a good impression on my in-laws and still pick out these teeny pieces of liver out of the stuffing. Not the best way to make a good impression.

Aaron Lindquist:

Growing up we always used to split Thanksgiving day between different sides of my family. Early in the day we would visit my dad's side of the family and then we would travel across town to spend the rest of the day with my mom's side. Trying to eat 2 Thanksgiving dinners is quite a feat! Yet somehow we managed to do so for over 12 years while we lived in Houston. My favorite thing about Thanksgiving is definitely the food and the football.

Colleen Consolvo:

Every Thanksgiving, I am reminded of how thankful I am for my life, for friends and family, especially my husband and children. Not too long ago, my husband and I were watching home movies from when the children were very small and came across one of Thanksgiving morning, when we were getting everything ready to cook. We were watching the Thanksgiving Day Parade while preparing the dinner. I believe Thanksgiving is not just sitting down to the meal and eating, it is the preparation and togetherness that makes it so special. I am thankful for the fact that I can be with my family, in a warm house with the chance to watch the Thanksgiving Day Parade and prepare everything together, then to enjoy the results!

I sincerely hope that everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving, especially the members of our Armed Forces at home and abroad who cannot be with their families and wish them a Happy Veteran's Day as well.

Annette McMMain:

Since we don't have any family that lives near us, we usually invite people over for Thanksgiving. We tend to invite people who don't have anywhere

to go for Thanksgiving or they are new to the area and don't really know anyone and we invite some of our church family. We have done this for the last three years. We always end up with tons of food and of course there is football to watch and we also play some games. This has become a bit of a tradition for us. This year we have a new and bigger house, so I am sure there will more people than in years past.

Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful but we should always be thankful for everything we have in our lives. I am thankful for so many things, if I tried to list all of them, I would probably take up the whole page. Happy Thanksgiving!!

Desirai Tolbert:

My Thanksgiving memory are always of my grandfather standing in the kitchen cooking. Yes, you read correctly. My grandfather did all the cooking, except for the chocolate cake. That was my grandmother's only duty besides getting the house prepared for company. My grandfather was a professional chef and he did not want anyone in HIS kitchen. AS IN "ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK". He would start planning and prepping his dishes the weekend before. He had his own garden in our backyard where he grew all our vegetables over the summer. In the house, he grew his fresh herbs. I loved to watch him just flow from one dish to the next when he started to mix ingredients, it was like watching the current flow down the river; his movements were graceful. Oh and could he cook!! All his side dishes were from scratch and never from a recipe book. He kept all of his recipes locked away in his brain. On Thanksgiving Day and the days following it, our house would be full with family and friends because we would have so much food and it was so delicious. The way people were in and out, you would think we had a revolving door. I miss those days of my youth when our house would be full with laughter, sitting around an immaculate table with food that succulent. I miss my grandfather most of all.



Count Your Blessings

An old mountaineer was asked for directions to a certain place. After musing for a few moments, he replied: "If I was wanting to get there, I sure wouldn't have started from here."

One of the truths of life is that none of us gets to choose our starting place. Now it seems popular in our culture to argue that our short-comings and failures are attributable to the handicaps or obstacles we have had to endure. "Why, if were not for (*you fill in the blank*); I would be (*again, your choice*)" That seems to be a colossal waste of time for few of us can ever get to a better starting point from which to proceed. Better would be to cease moaning about what happened before we began and to jump in right where we are at this very moment.

Good things seem to happen for those who count their blessings as opposed to those who decry their lack thereof. Thanksgiving, apart from the turkey and football; family and falling leaves, is our time to begin saying thanks. Once you begin to count your blessings, the more of them there seems to be there for the counting. Start with just one. I'm sure you can come up with something. Give thanks to God or fate or just your own good luck and then see if this first one doesn't lead you to another and another and so on. Go ahead and give it a try and you might just be astonished at the blessings that exist in your life. Again, as it is in life; it doesn't matter much where you start but it matters tremendously where you happen to end up.

If you are looking for a church home to be part of your blessings, we would love to have you join us at Virginia Beach United Methodist Church, on the corner of 19th and Pacific, right at the oceanfront. We have three services every Sunday: at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00. Come and visit us, we are saving you a seat.

Rev. Ted David, Senior Pastor,

Virginia Beach United Methodist Church

Tips to Make Your Children Thankful After A Divorce in Virginia

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, we know that you want your children to know that their happiness is your most important concern even if their parents are separated and divorcing. Many parents fear the impact that their divorce may have on their children over the long term.

Your children need the love, support and guidance of both parents, even if the parents are divorcing. Don't let the stress and emotions of a divorce cause you to act in way that may harm the relationship your child has with you or their other parent.

Some of the most common mistakes that parents make during the while going through a divorce in Virginia are:

- 1) Making the child feel like they need to choose between the parents;
- 2) Blaming or badmouthing the other parent;
- 3) Getting children involved with a new boyfriend/girlfriend too early in the relationship;
- 4) Involving the children in disputes between you and your spouse: and
- 5) Giving your children the appearance that you are not receptive to their concerns or needs.

Children are resilient and can adapt to the changing situation if both parents take the time to make sure that the child's concerns are being heard and addressed. Even if you have made some mistakes in dealing with your child during your divorce, you can easily repair the damage by admitting that you have made the mistakes and taking the time to repair your relationship with the child.

One of the worst things that you can do is to assume that your child will get over your divorce if they just have enough time. Children often believe that they are at fault when Mom and Dad separate and divorce. Both parents must work together to make sure that the child understands that the divorce is about the parents relationship and not due to anything that the child did or did not do. You need to encourage your kids to talk about the Virginia divorce, but let it happen naturally. Regardless of who they are living with, let them know you will always be available to listen to them. Be sure that when they talk about the divorce, you allow them to share their feelings and concerns openly. It is easy to let your emotions come out when talking to the child but you have to remember that this is not about you but about making sure that your child is happy.



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We didn't have any new clients in October who told us who referred them to us. If you tell a friend or family member to come to us, be sure to tell them to give us your name so we can Thank you for the referral. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our extended family, which includes all of you, a very HAPPY THANKSGIVING. May you be able to spend the day with those who are close to you.

Next month, we will be remembering Christmas. Tell us your favorite Christmas memory and you will have a chance to win a special Christmas gift.

Please remember that we are closed every Monday from 1 to 1:30 for our office staff meeting. In addition, please remember that Mrs. Pfeiffer, Colleen or Annette do not take walk in appointments or unscheduled phone calls. If you need to speak with Colleen, Annette or Mrs. Pfeiffer about your case, Desirai will be happy to schedule you a time to call one of us. Normally she will be able to schedule you an appointment with Colleen or Annette within 24 hours. You can always send us an email at info@hamptonroadslegal.com and we will respond within one day. This allows us to concentrate on your case without interruptions.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter you can call Desirai at 340-3100 to remove your name from the mailing list or you can e-mail her at info@HamptonRoadsLegal.com.

This firm is a debt relief agency. We assist people through bankruptcy.