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## How to Ruin Your Personal Injury Case



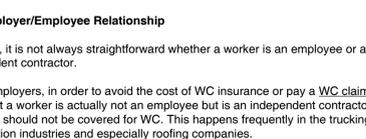
There are certain critical steps that you must take if you are injured in an accident, a slip and fall or any type of personal injury – for example, seek medical treatment immediately, report the accident, document everything. But there are just as many actions **NOT** to do because they can irreparably damage your personal injury case.

When you have experienced any type of personal injury, it's vital to proceed wisely to preserve your rights in any claim. Here is our list of mistakes to avoid that can virtually ruin your case:

- **Don't miss the deadline to file your case.** In other words, observe the statute of limitations. Generally, there is a 2-year statute of limitations in Ohio for most personal injury cases. The clock begins on the date of injury. If the deadline is missed, you will probably lose your chance at any compensation for medical expenses, rehabilitation, lost wages and other costs related to your injury.
- **Don't discuss your case.** Answer questions only from the police at the accident scene. Don't apologize and don't talk about the accident to other drivers or insurance companies. Others will try to misrepresent your words to show that your injuries are not serious – and reduce any settlement amount.
- **Don't miss any medical appointments.** By doing so, you may inadvertently show that your injuries are not as serious as you have claimed.
- **You should not accept a settlement without consulting an attorney.** An early settlement may not fully account for potential future costs in addition to your immediate expenses.
- **Don't post photos or other information about your accident or injuries on Facebook or any other social media sites.** No matter what your security settings are, nothing is private on social media. A friend may share your photo and the insurance adjuster or defense attorney may obtain it. Stay away from social media after an injury and don't include any photos or information about your activities on your blog or webpage.
- **Don't be lulled into complacency – you are being watched.** Insurance companies often recruit investigators to obtain photo and video evidence of your activities to demonstrate that your injuries are not affecting your personal or work life.

The right step is to contact an attorney experienced in Ohio personal injury cases. Please call us! We will fight for your right to compensation for your injuries.

## Are Independent Contractors Eligible for Workers' Compensation?



A worker may be designated as an independent contractor based upon the circumstances in which she works. An independent contractor provides services based on a contract, which may be unwritten, and without the direction of the person paying for those services. These workers act independently and free of the control of the hiring company. For example, they set their own hours to work, the jobs they choose to take, they also may supply their own tools or equipment.

Since independent contractors are not considered to be employees, Worker's Compensation (WC) is not available to these workers in Ohio. Employers do not have to purchase this coverage for these workers.

### The Employer/Employee Relationship

However, it is not always straightforward whether a worker is an employee or an independent contractor.

Some employers, in order to avoid the cost of WC insurance or pay a WC claim, will claim that a worker is actually not an employee but is an independent contractor and therefore should not be covered for WC. This happens frequently in the trucking and construction industries and especially roofing companies.

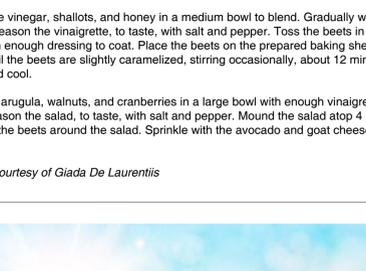
Companies attempting to dispute a WC claim may also contest the applications by workers who come through labor leasing or professional employer organizations. These include temporary employees, or temps, as well as interns.

These workers may be eligible for benefits, regardless of how they are classified. Companies may purposely categorize employees as independent contractors to avoid paying WC insurance and to prevent eligibility for other benefits like medical insurance and paid leave.

An experienced attorney can compile work records and other documentation, if necessary, to prove that a worker is an employee rather than an independent contractor.

If you or a loved one has been harmed by any type of personal injury or has been denied Worker's Compensation or Social Security Disability (SSD) benefits, it's important to get an attorney experienced in these types of cases involved immediately. Call 1 (800) 589-6611 for your initial, free consultation, either in our office or in the comfort of your own home. Heller, Maas, Moro & Magill, Co., LPA, a workplace injury and Social Security disability law firm located in Youngstown, can help you navigate the application process for the best possible outcome for you and your family.

## Recipe of the Month Beet and Goat Cheese Arugula Salad



This gourmet salad has colors, flavors, and textures that will complement most any meal and will become a staple for any family gathering or special occasion.

### Ingredients

- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 3 tablespoons shallots, thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 6 medium beets, cooked and quartered
- 6 cups fresh arugula
- 1/2 cup walnuts, toasted, coarsely chopped
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries or dried cherries
- 1/2 avocado, peeled, pitted, and cubed
- 3 ounces soft fresh goat cheese, coarsely crumbled

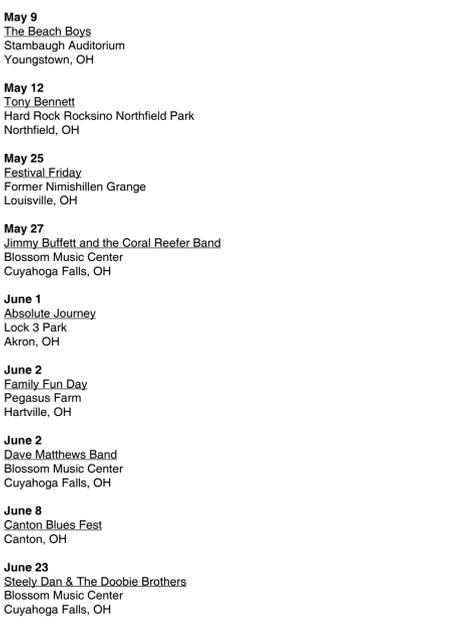
### Directions

Line a baking sheet with foil. Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F.

Whisk the vinegar, shallots, and honey in a medium bowl to blend. Gradually whisk in the oil. Season the vinaigrette, to taste, with salt and pepper. Toss the beets in a small bowl with enough dressing to coat. Place the beets on the prepared baking sheet and roast until the beets are slightly caramelized, stirring occasionally, about 12 minutes. Set aside and cool.

Toss the arugula, walnuts, and cranberries in a large bowl with enough vinaigrette to coat. Season the salad, to taste, with salt and pepper. Mound the salad atop 4 plates. Arrange the beets around the salad. Sprinkle with the avocado and goat cheese, and serve.

Recipe courtesy of Giada De Laurentiis



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## What's Happening In Youngstown, Warren, Salem, Ravenna & Akron

**May 9**  
The Beach Boys  
Stambaugh Auditorium  
Youngstown, OH

**May 12**  
Tony Bennett  
Hard Rock Rockino Northfield Park  
Northfield, OH

**May 25**  
Festival Friday  
Former Nimishillen Grange  
Louisville, OH

**May 27**  
Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band  
Blossom Music Center  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH

**June 1**  
Absolute Journey  
Lock 3 Park  
Akron, OH

**June 2**  
Family Fun Day  
Pegasus Farm  
Hartsville, OH

**June 2**  
Dave Matthews Band  
Blossom Music Center  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH

**June 8**  
Canton Blues Fest  
Canton, OH

**June 23**  
Steely Dan & The Doobie Brothers  
Blossom Music Center  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH

**June 27 - 30**  
Cirque du Soleil Crystal  
Covelli Centre  
Youngstown, OH

## Follow us...



## Meet Our Attorneys



Robert L. Heller



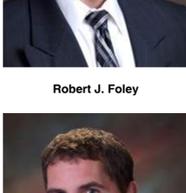
Steven D. Maas



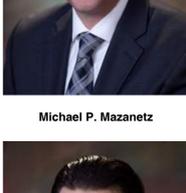
Joseph A. Moro



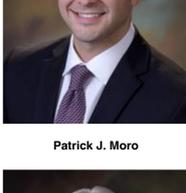
Richard L. Magill



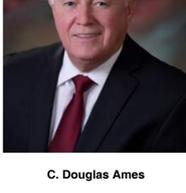
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