

# HANKEY MARKS & CRIDER

INJURY & DISABILITY ATTORNEYS

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## Inside this issue:



**PAGE 2**  
Who Is Liable for an Auto Accident Caused by Icy Roads?



**PAGE 2**  
How You Can Avoid Fraud—9 tips to Avoid Being Targeted



**PAGE 3**  
Slip & Fall Accidents on Public Property: Who's to Blame?



**PAGE 3**  
Winter Word Search



**PAGE 3**  
Gnocchi with Spinach and Chicken Sausage



**PAGE 4**  
What You Need to Know About Camp LeJeune Claims (Including the Deadline)

## From our Office

It is hard to believe that we are well on our way into 2024 already! As we settle into this New Year, we are excited to share some important updates with you!

We are thrilled to introduce our newest Associate Attorney, Jacqueline Hensley, who joins our team with a wealth of legal experience and a heart dedicated to fighting for justice. Jacqueline's background as a former Prosecutor has equipped her with invaluable courtroom experience, making her exceptionally well-suited to advocate for our personal injury and wrongful death clients. Her commitment to seeking justice and her passion for helping those in need align perfectly with our firm's values, and we have no doubt that her skills will be instrumental in advancing the causes of her clients. Jacqueline will focus her practice on all types of injury and wrongful death claims.

We are also excited to announce a significant expansion of our legal services for Veterans. In addition to VA Disability Benefit claims, we are now handling Camp LeJeune cases as well. Leading this crucial initiative is Senior Attorney, Melissa Davidson. Melissa brings her unwavering dedication and passion for assisting Veterans to the forefront, as she personally understands the profound sacrifices made by our military members and their families. Several members of her own family have served or are currently serving, driving her commitment to ensure justice for Veterans.

Finally, during these winter months, it is important to remember the increased risks that can come along with the dropping temperatures, ice, and snow. Slip and falls, car accidents, and other unfortunate incidents become more common as snow and ice create hazardous conditions on our roads and sidewalks. We understand the challenges that winter weather can bring. Our dedicated team of legal professionals is experienced in handling all types of personal injury cases, and we are committed to ensuring that our clients receive the support and compensation they deserve.

Stay safe, stay warm, and remember that we are a phone call away should you need any legal assistance!

*-Ashley & Stacy*



## Practice Areas

With over 95 years of combined experience, both in and out of the courtroom, the legal professionals at Hankey Marks & Crider can resolve cases involving:

Disability Claims (SSDI/SSI)  
Federal Court Appeals  
Long & Short Term Disability  
ERISA Litigation  
Veterans' Disability Benefits  
Personal Injury & Wrongful Death  
Car Accidents

Truck Accidents  
Motorcycle Accidents  
Bicycle Accidents  
Railroad Crossing/Train Accidents  
Highway Defects  
Dangerous Drugs & Devices  
Premises Liability

Product Liability  
Spinal Injuries  
Dog Bites /Animal Attacks  
Child Injuries  
Construction Accidents  
Burn Injuries  
Drowning

# Who Is Liable for an Auto Accident Caused by Icy Roads?

Ice, snow and rain can make roadways slippery and increase the risk of an auto accident. Motorists driving during wintery weather must pay extra attention to their environment.

Unfortunately, even the most diligent drivers can quickly lose control of their cars if they hit a patch of black ice. Who is responsible for a car collision on icy roads?

## Determining Who Is at Fault

Legally speaking, you cannot blame a car crash on the weather. All drivers must adequately maintain their vehicles and exercise extreme caution when they're behind the wheel during a snowstorm.

If you were involved in a wintertime car crash that was no fault of your own, you may be able to collect compensation. To do so, your attorney must prove the following components of the negligence of the potentially liable party:

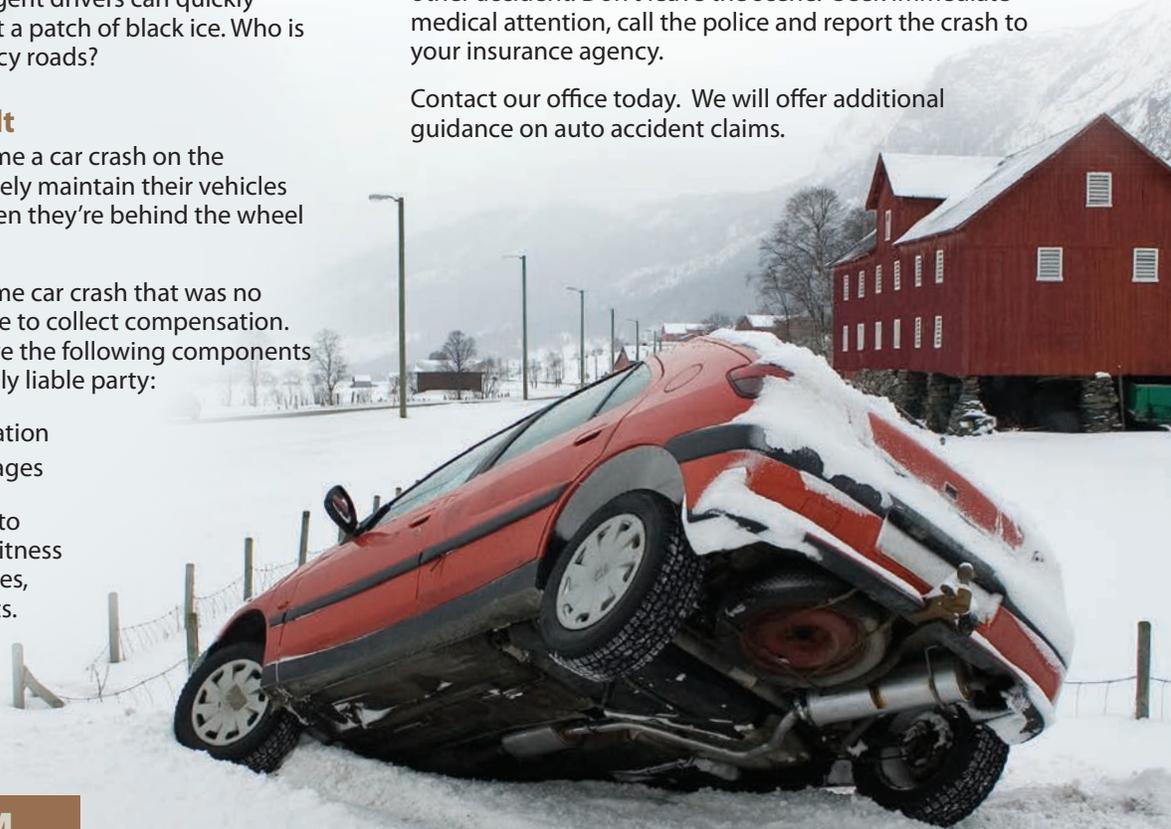
- ▶ Duty of care
- ▶ Breach of duty
- ▶ Causation
- ▶ Damages

Car crash attorneys use evidence to establish negligence, including witness statements, accident scene pictures, vehicle damage and police reports. This evidence is even more beneficial for accident claims that involve multiple cars.

## What Should You Do If You Were Injured in a Car Collision on Icy Roads?

Car crashes on snowy roads should be treated like any other accident. Don't leave the scene. Seek immediate medical attention, call the police and report the crash to your insurance agency.

Contact our office today. We will offer additional guidance on auto accident claims.



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## How You Can Avoid Fraud 9 tips to Avoid Being Targeted

If you spot a scam, report it at [FTC.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint). You can also get the latest tips and advice from the FTC about scams sent right to your inbox. Sign up for these free scam alerts from the FTC at [www.ftc.gov/scams](https://www.ftc.gov/scams). Here are nine ways to keep yourself safe.

**Spot imposters.** Scammers often pretend to be someone you trust. Don't send money or give out personal information in response to an unexpected request.

**Do online searches.** Type a company or product name into your favorite search engine with words like "review," "complaint" or "scam."

**Don't believe your caller ID.** Technology makes it easy for scammers to fake caller ID information.

### Don't pay upfront for a promise.

Someone might ask you to pay in advance for things like debt relief, credit and loan offers, mortgage assistance, or a job. They might even say you've won a prize, but first you have to pay taxes or fees.

**Consider how you pay.** Credit cards have significant fraud protection built in, but some payment methods don't. Wiring money is risky because it's nearly impossible to get your money back. That's also true for reloadable cards and gift cards.

**Talk to someone.** Before you give up your money or personal information, talk to someone you trust. Slow down, check out the story, do an online search, consult an expert — or just tell a friend.

**Hang up on robocalls.** If you answer the phone and hear a recorded sales pitch, hang up and report it to the FTC. These calls are illegal.

**Be skeptical about free trial offers.** Some companies use free trials to sign you up for products and bill you every month until you cancel.

**Don't deposit a check and wire money back.** If a check you deposit turns out to be a fake, you're responsible for repaying the bank.

Source: The Federal Trade Commission

# Slip & Fall Accidents on Public Property: **Who's to Blame?**

Slips and falls are probably the last thing on your mind when grocery shopping or at the doctor for your annual checkup. Unfortunately, public properties are full of potential tripping hazards. Uneven sidewalks, icy pavements and freshly mopped floors can all increase your risk of injury.

Slipping and falling in public isn't just highly embarrassing. It can also be deadly. According to the World Health Organization, falls are the second leading cause of unintentional injury deaths globally. Slip-and-fall incidents can also lead to lost wages and hefty medical bills.

If you were the victim of a slip-and-fall accident on public property you could receive compensation by filing a claim against the property owner or municipality.

## Who Is at Fault?

Slip-and-fall accidents on public premises are complicated liability claims. To receive compensation, you must prove that:

- ▶ A property owner or employee caused the slipping hazard
- ▶ They knew, or should have known, about the hazard and did nothing to fix it

## What Should You Do After a Slip and Fall?

If you suffered injuries from a slip and fall on public property, seek medical attention immediately. Report the accident as soon as possible. Provide key details including the incident's location, date, eye-witness testimonials and photos of the scene.

Next, contact us and speak to our experienced personal injury attorneys. We can help you navigate the legal process and receive the compensation you need and deserve. Call us today.



# Gnocchi with Spinach and Chicken Sausage

## Ingredients:

- ▶ 1 package 16 ounces potato gnocchi
- ▶ 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ▶ 1 package (12 ounces) fully cooked Italian chicken sausage links, halved and sliced
- ▶ 2 shallots, finely chopped
- ▶ 2 garlic cloves, minced
- ▶ 1 cup white wine or chicken broth
- ▶ 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- ▶ ½ cup reduced-sodium chicken broth
- ▶ 3 cups fresh baby spinach
- ▶ ½ cup heavy whipping cream
- ▶ ¼ cup shredded parmesan cheese

## Instructions:

1. Cook gnocchi according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat; cook sausage and shallots until sausage is browned and shallots are tender. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer.
2. Stir in wine. Bring to a boil; cook until liquid is reduced by half, 3-4 minutes. In a small bowl, mix cornstarch and broth until smooth; stir into sausage mixture. Return to a boil, stirring constantly; cook and stir until thickened, 1-2 minutes. Add spinach and cream; cook and stir until spinach is wilted.
3. Drain gnocchi; add to pan and heat through. Sprinkle with cheese.

# Winter Word Search

SNOWBOARD	E A R M U F F S M L E G N A W O N S
SLEDDING	X T P J A C K E T R E T R O F M O C
SNOW ANGEL	O E I B T Z D T E U K E N B J L B F
TOBOGGAN	J R N G H O G B L U S T E R Y Q C E
COMFORTER	H T E N I E B U S N O W B A L L A
PINETREE	T D T I O P A O Q S U C G C H Z L G
JACKET	G E R D N D V T G D R A O B W O N S
SNOWBALL	Y C E D T C X V E G O N A S C G X Z
ICESKATE	R E E E J P G I O R A J X H F R R G
SHIVER	M M R L J O D V I R T N B I N X P U
BLUSTERY	C B I S Z H I C E S K A T E J L F U
EARMUFFS	K E O S H I V E R L P F R A L O P N
HEATER	



# HANKEY MARKS & CRIDER

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## Referrals

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



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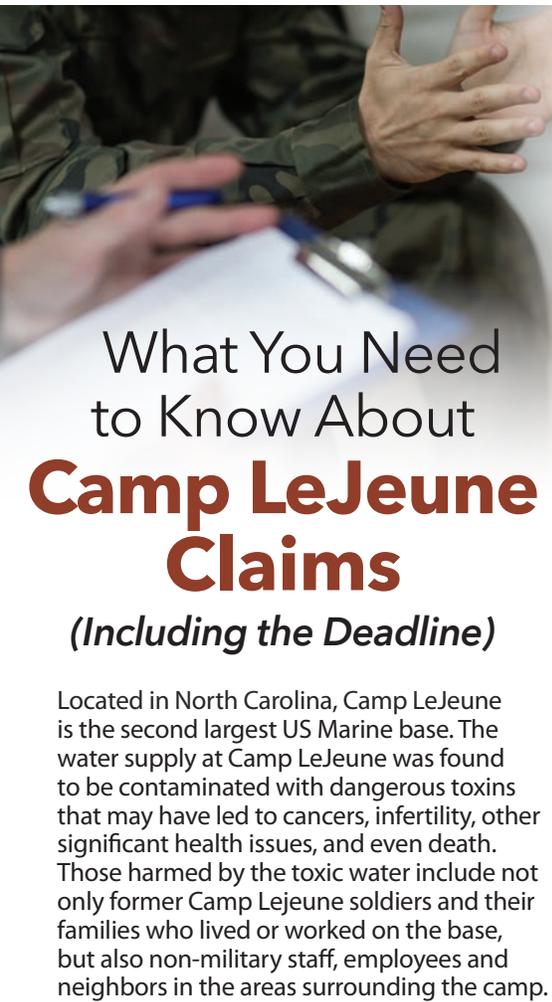
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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional legal advice. For your specific situation, please call the appropriate legal professional.



# What You Need to Know About Camp LeJeune Claims

*(Including the Deadline)*

Located in North Carolina, Camp LeJeune is the second largest US Marine base. The water supply at Camp LeJeune was found to be contaminated with dangerous toxins that may have led to cancers, infertility, other significant health issues, and even death. Those harmed by the toxic water include not only former Camp LeJeune soldiers and their families who lived or worked on the base, but also non-military staff, employees and neighbors in the areas surrounding the camp.

In 2022, the PACT ACT (Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics) was enacted and included The Camp LeJeune Justice Act of 2022, which allows anyone who lived or worked on the base between 1953 and 1987 to file a claim and lawsuit for damages.

### There are some important things to know about this litigation:

- ▶ Water contamination affected not only Camp LeJeune, but also New River Air Station, which shares the water supply. Anyone residing at either location may participate in the lawsuit.
- ▶ A claim for damages under the PACT Act is not the same as a claim for service-connected disability benefits that are available for Veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs. The claim form in this litigation must be submitted to the Department of Navy on a special form.
- ▶ Claims can be filed not only by Veterans and their families, but also civilians that lived and worked on either base for at least 30 days from 1953-1987. This includes children that were in utero or born after exposure to the toxic water.
- ▶ The deadline for claims is August 10, 2024.

Here at Hankey, Marks, and Crider, our attorneys are not only accredited by the VA, they are also personal injury litigators

experienced in the federal courts – where the Camp LeJeune cases must be filed. **How can a skilled attorney assist with your case?**

- ▶ Assist with proper completion and submission of the claim form. Don't risk having a claim rejected because of failure to complete the form properly.
- ▶ Advise on whether the expedited settlement option is appropriate for your case.
- ▶ Gather any evidence necessary to provide proof of exposure and diagnosis during the required time frames.
- ▶ File and litigate the lawsuit in the Federal District Court.
- ▶ File a simultaneous claim with VA for service-connected disability benefits, if you are a Veteran.
- ▶ Assist with filing a claim for a loved one that died due to an illness from the toxic exposure.
- ▶ Attorney fees are limited under the Camp LeJeune Act.

Don't delay! The time to file claims is limited! You may visit us online or reach out by either calling 317-599-4111 or email: [jwiley@hankeylaw.com](mailto:jwiley@hankeylaw.com).