



Compassionate Advocates for the Injured and Disabled

# The Christie Report

Social Security Disability — Car Accidents—Nursing Home/Medical Malpractice

January/February 2011

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## Have You Recovered?

From the holidays, of course. The holidays are great but they really take a lot out of you. I think the last 6 weeks of every year are exhausting! So do my husband and MacArthur. Here is a picture of them after a long holiday weekend!!



Now we are into 2011. I used to think that years went by fast, but now it is decades that fly by. We all have so much to do, even when it is not the holiday season. We are cooking or cleaning or working or shopping or taking kids to activities or going to doctor's appointments or taking kids or parents to doctor's appointments. It is just overwhelming sometimes.

This holiday season I was reminded of the importance of taking some time to do just one thing that helps you relax. For women that may be a bubble bath. For men that may be spending an afternoon watching sports. For me it is reading a book. Not a business book or a law book but a really good novel. And that's what I did over the holidays. I carved out a little time to just sit and read – and it felt great!!

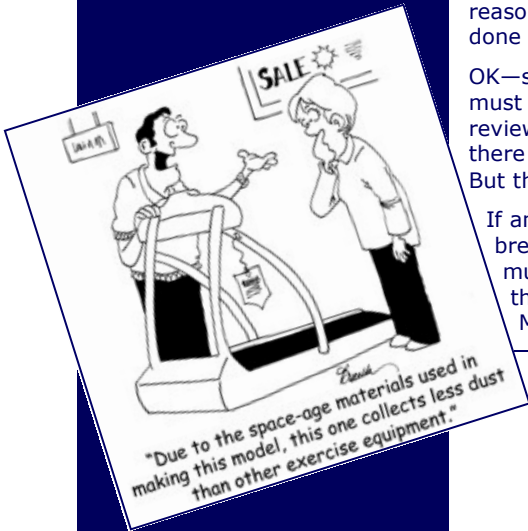
So, for your 2011 resolution, do yourself a favor and commit to finding an activity that allows you to relax and do that one activity just once a week. You will feel better – and everyone around you will feel better, too!



## Thanks for the Referrals

The greatest compliment I can receive is for clients and colleagues to refer new clients. Thank you to everyone who referred clients in November & December:

- |                                |                           |                    |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Morris Balser, Esquire         | Brain Injury Assoc. of MD | Richard Brown      |
| Vincent Cesenaro               | Marshall Hensley, Esquire | Rose Kyle          |
| Mary McDonald                  | Thomas McDonough, Esquire | Dennis Pulley      |
| Harvey Kirk, Esquire           | Gale Todd                 | Jacqueline Turnage |
| Weinstock, Friedman & Friedman | Amy Wheeler               | Melvina Young-Rusk |



**Valentine's Day  
Feb. 14, 2011**



## Do I Have A Case?

As you know, I handle both Social Security disability and injury/malpractice cases. In car accident cases, it is usually fairly easy to determine who was at fault and whether or not you have a case. That is not true, however, in malpractice cases.

Medical malpractice and nursing home malpractice cases have their own set of legal requirements. Just have a bad result from treatment does not mean that you have a valid malpractice case.

The first thing you must prove is that the health care provider (doctor, nurse, hospital, etc.) breached the applicable standard of care. What does that mean? It means that the health care provider did something that no reasonable health care provider would have done in treating a patient like you.

OK—so how do you prove that? In MD, you must have expert testimony. The expert will review the medical records to determine if there was a breach in the standard of care. But that is only the first step.

If an expert determines that there was a breach in the standard of care, then you must prove the damages that resulted from the breach. But it is not that simple. In MD you must prove the damages that are

related to the malpractice that would not have likely otherwise occurred. For example, if you have surgery and get an infection, you might think you have a case. But, even if you could prove that the surgeon breached the standard of care in performing the surgery, you probably don't have a case. Why? Well, you would also have to prove that the infection resulted from the negligence of the surgeon and that the infection would not have otherwise occurred. An infection, however, is a known complication of all surgeries, even if they are performed perfectly. This is because anytime you cut the skin for any reason, you can get an infection. So, you will probably not be able to prove that the infection would not otherwise have occurred. As you can see, the assessment of these cases is a lot more complicated than most people realize.

If you think that you might have a case, you'll want a lawyer who is well versed in malpractice cases to look at it as soon as possible. There are time limits that apply when filing these claims. Under current MD law, a claim for malpractice must be filed within 3 years of the time when you knew or should have known of your injury or 5 years from the date of treatment, whichever comes first. It takes 6 months or longer to investigate these cases.

*Laughter rises out of tragedy, when you need it the most, and rewards you for your courage.* ~Erma Bombeck

## The Lighter Side

**Gossip & Socrates, the great philosopher**

One day the great philosopher came upon an acquaintance who ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about one of your students?"

"Wait a moment," Socrates replied. "Before you tell me, I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Test of Three."

"The first test is Truth. Are you sure that what you will say is true?"

"Oh no," the man said. "actually, I just heard about it."

"All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true. Now let's try the second test, the test of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my student something good?"

"No, on the contrary..."

"So," Socrates interrupted, "you want to tell me something bad about him even though you're not certain it's true?" The man shrugged, a little embarrassed.

Socrates continued. "You may still pass though, because there is a third test, the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my student to be useful to me?"

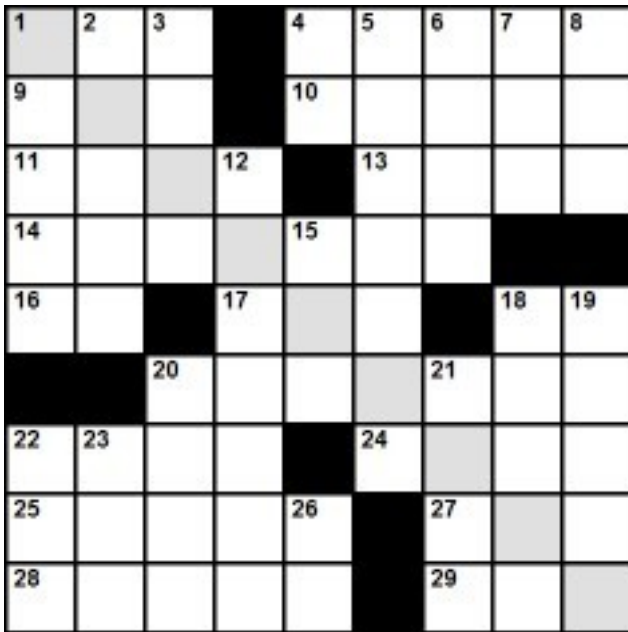
"Well it...no, not really..."

"Well," concluded Socrates, "If what you want to tell me is neither True nor Good nor even Useful, why tell it to me at all?"

The man was defeated and ashamed.

This is the reason Socrates was held in such high esteem. It also explains why he never found out what Plato was up to.

## Winter Fun Place



**Across**

- 1. I came, I\_\_\_\_, I conquered
- 4. Thespian
- 9. \_\_\_\_ out, barely manage
- 10. Mary Tyler \_\_\_\_
- 11. Musical group
- 13. Three feet
- 14. Violent downpour
- 16. In operation
- 17. Social gathering
- 18. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, film
- 20. Slicker
- 22. Pious platitudes
- 24. Drunkards
- 25. Relative
- 27. 100 square meters
- 28. Designer's forte
- 29. Negative

**Down**

- 1. Brawl
- 2. Rubber capital
- 3. Low dam
- 4. Morning: Abbr.
- 5. Demureness
- 6. Just right
- 7. Hockey great
- 8. Casino choice
- 12. Relating to the eye socket
- 15. Sinuous swimmer
- 18. \_\_\_\_glycerin, drug
- 19. Assault
- 20. Merely
- 21. Zen Buddhist riddle
- 22. Composed of former Soviet states
- 23. Fornicary occupant
- 26. You and I

**FREE Seminars**

**- Social Security Disability -**

Sessions Each Month!  
See website for days, times,  
and locations

**BALTIMORE  
EVENTS**

**Aspen String Trio**

Jan. 30 | 3-5pm FREE  
Community Concerts at Second  
4200 St. Paul Street

**Bach Concert Series**

Feb. 6 | 4-5:15pm FREE  
Christ Lutheran Church  
701 S. Charles St.

**A Touch of the Illusionist;  
The Rise & Fall of Orson Welles**

Feb. 18 & 19 | 8pm FREE  
Mildred Dunnock Theater  
Goucher College, 1021  
Dulaney Valley Rd.  
410-337-6512 for reservations

**Brass Roots Trio**

Feb. 27 | 3:30-5pm FREE  
Community Concerts at Second  
4200 St. Paul Street



### Snow Sculpture

An international Snow Sculpting Competition takes place in Breckenridge, CO starting on Jan. 25. The show attracts competitors from China, Spain, the Netherlands, Russia & Canada.

Here are some snow sculpting tips:

- Pile up a mound of snow..pack a bucket or barrel & empty it out as a starting point.
- Use items such as hoes or shovels to outline your sculpture
- Smooth it with a spatula & add details with kitchen utensils.
- Spray lightly with the hose to allow it to freeze and be preserved for a time.

### Eat Your Veggies

Americans still aren't eating enough vegetables & fruits, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Healthy People 2010 targets calls for 75% of Americans to eat at least 2 daily fruit servings and 50% to eat 3 or more vegetables/day. But only a third of Americans are eating enough fruit and 1/2 are eating 3 vegetables/day. One very easy way to increase the fruits & vegetables in your diet is to drink one green smoothie each day. All it takes is a powerful blender & any fruits and vegetables you have on hand. Start out by making fruit smoothies with a little bit of greens..adding more as you adjust to the taste. Add frozen berries to make it delicious. A green smoothie is a powerhouse of nutrition!



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**To receive a FREE copy of**  
**Sharon Christie's**  
*Unofficial Guide to Social Security Disability Benefits*

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# Sharon A. Christie Law

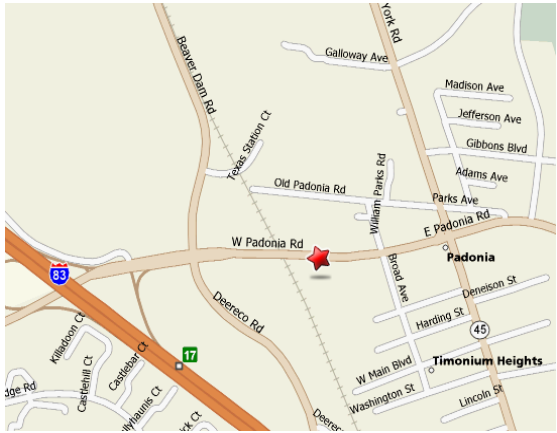
The **Law Office of Sharon A. Christie** helps disabled workers receive the Social Security Disability benefits they deserve. The firm also helps clients who are seriously injured in car accidents, by medical malpractice or who are victims of nursing home abuse get fair compensation for those injuries.

The firm's mission is to fight for the underdog and level the playing field, whether the opponent is the government or an insurance company.

The firm's founder, Sharon A. Christie, is a nurse as well as an attorney.

**Sharon's clients receive the benefit of having their cases handled by a firm that knows the medicine AND the law.**

For more information about the law firm, visit our website at  
[www.SharonChristieLaw.com](http://www.SharonChristieLaw.com).



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**Practice Areas**  
 Car Accidents  
 Medical Malpractice  
 Nursing Home Abuse & Injuries  
 Social Security Disability

T	O	N	E	L	A	T	S
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