



Compassionate Advocates for the Injured and Disabled

The Christie Report

Social Security Disability

May/June 2011

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If you prefer to receive updates from us via email, please send your email address to us at:

Donna@SharonChristieLaw.com

If you wish to be added to or removed from our mailing list, please call: 800-681-9821

So I decided to throw a surprise party...



for my husband's 60th birthday. Joe turned 60 on March 18. Fortunately he is not sensitive about his age and doesn't mind that I have splashed it across the newsletter for thousands of people to read! Oh, and in case you are wondering, he is older than me!

I have been thinking about this party for a long time and started planning it last fall. I knew that I could never surprise him if I tried to have it at our house, so I had to find a good venue. A friend suggested that I look at Peerce's. If you are a native Baltimorean or have lived here for a long time you probably remember the restaurant, Peerce's Plantation. It closed for a while but is now reopened as a more casual restaurant with a great party room. And it is close to where we live - so Peerce's was the place.

Everything was set for the party. I scheduled it for March 12 so he would not be suspicious. I told him that we were going to a "fundraiser" for the Brain Injury Association of Maryland and, since I am on the Board, we had to go. He never questioned it! I

told him that I needed to spend the afternoon helping to set up for the fundraiser. He believed every word! So, by early evening all of the decorations were up and the cake was delivered. All we needed were the guests -- and, then, the Guest of Honor.

We usually go to church on Saturday evening from 5-6PM. I didn't change that routine. The only problem was that the party was from 7-11 and we were to arrive at 7:30. So what excuse could I use to stall until 7:30? Joe suggested that we get dinner - bad idea because there was a ton of food at the party. So I told him there would be a full buffet at the "fundraiser" and we shouldn't eat. I purposefully did not dress up for church and said we should just go home, take our time, change clothes and then leave for the party. He bought it hook, line and sinker!

We were to leave our house at 7:15PM. I sent a text message to Joe's daughter that we were on our way. Which we were supposed to be - but Joe could not find his wallet. ANYWHERE! I saw clothes flying out of his closet as he searched anything with a pocket. I heard a string of Polish curse words coming from his mouth. (I don't speak Polish but I know cursing when I hear it. I never asked for an interpretation!) In his frustration he looked at me and said: "You go on to the fundraiser and I WILL MEET YOU THERE LATER." WHAT? Are you kidding me? I have been planning this party for months, there are 80 people waiting for us to show up and he says that he will meet me there later? Do I have to ruin the surprise by telling him that there is a room full of people waiting to wish him a happy birthday? I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Instead, I took a deep breath, looked him in the eye and simply said: "No, we are not going to do it that way."

Then Joe remembered that his wallet might be in his desk drawer. And it was - catastrophe averted. So we were 20 minutes late for the party but I had a great story to tell! Was he surprised? You bet. He was speechless for the first time ever!

It was a great party and we have terrific memories. It reminded me that the journey is as important as the destination. Even when we struggle and have difficult times, you have to remember to believe that there is a solution to the problem and there are better days coming.

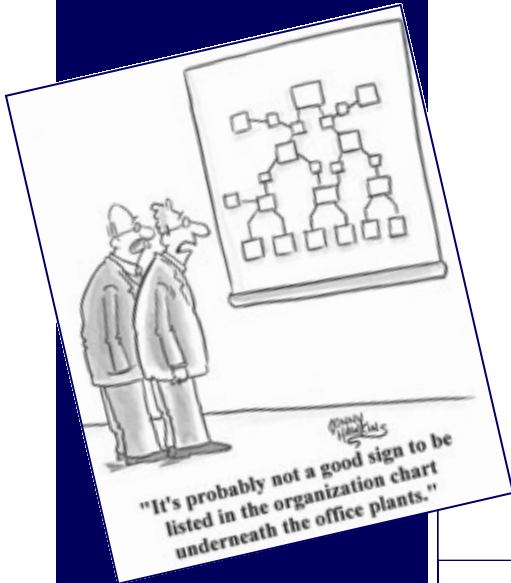


Thanks for the Referrals

The greatest compliment I can receive is for clients and colleagues to refer new clients.

Thank you to everyone who referred clients in March & April:

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Stanley Benn | Michael Damico | Susan Jameson | Weinstock, Friedman & Friedman |
| Jennifer Jenkins | Frederick Jones, Jr. | Tom Newbrough, Esq. | |
| Regina Phillips | Philip Rogers | Harvey Kirk, Esq. | |



Update on the Hill Family

When I'm not at my desk in Sharon's law office, I pursue a busy home life mothering 5 children (my oldest, Melinda, lives offsite with 2 boys of her own). My husband, Steve, and I have 3 younger girls, ages 19, 15 and 14, and a son, age 13. You met Stephanie, 19, in our newsletter last summer when she interned in our office. She currently attends St. John's University in Queens. Caroline, 15, in her sophomore year of high school, enjoys playing tennis, and we have 2 middle schoolers, Kayla and Mike, whom we adopted. They came to us in 2004, by way of the Department of Social Services, when we decided it was time to add a boy to our family. The boy we found arrived complete with an older sister!

Life with 4 teenagers challenges me even on

my best days! I had to start keeping the calendar on the computer because it overflowed. Luckily, Steph is in charge of her busy life in NYC. Caroline just got a job as a dietary assistant in an assisted living community, plays tennis and steadily fills the dinner table with friends. Kayla's favorite time of year, softball season, is currently underway. She loves movies and reading and likes to try her hand at cooking. She anticipates participating in the marching band, beginning with band camp at her high school in August. Mike was just admitted to Carver Center for Arts and Technology in Towson for fall 2011 - one of 14 freshmen in the vocal program. He enjoys telling people that he has a job...he gets paid to sing at an Anglican church in our community.



Hill Family Adoption Day

"You attract to yourself reflections of that which you are. If you're friendly, then everybody else seems to be friendly, too."

~ David Hawkins, physician, lecturer

The Lighter Side

Evil Baseball Game

One day, the Devil challenged the Lord to a baseball game.

Smiling, the Lord proclaimed, "You don't have a chance. I have Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle, and all the greatest players up here."



"Yes," snickered the Devil, "but I have all the umpires."

Kids at the Wedding

At a friend's wedding, everything went smoothly until it was time for the flower girl and her young escort to come down the aisle.

The little boy stopped at every pew, and viciously growled at the guests.

When asked afterward why he behaved so badly, he explained, "I was just trying to be a good ring bear."



CONGRATULATIONS to Richard Wilson, OTR from *Rehab at Work*. Richard was the winner of an iPod nano at our Brain Injury Association of Maryland drawing!

Lions & tigers & bears

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
9					10			
11					12			
13				14				
		15						
16	17	18				19	20	21
22					23			
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26					27			

Across

- 1. Applaud
- 5. Mine entrance
- 9. Houston university
- 10. Milano moolah
- 11. Make, as money
- 12. Hydrox rival
- 13. Verticality
- 15. Embrace
- 16. Purifying
- 22. Horse color
- 23. "I had no ___!"
- 24. Acad.
- 25. "___ me!"
- 26. Governors in the Ottoman Empire
- 27. Catch sight of

Down

- 1. Algonquin Indian
- 2. Pinocchio at times
- 3. "God's Little ___"
- 4. Likings
- 5. Together with
- 6. Acute
- 7. Furies
- 8. New Mexico art community
- 14. 252 wine gallons
- 16. Baby holder
- 17. "The ___ Ranger"
- 18. "No problem!"
- 19. Bad day for Caesar
- 20. ___ tide
- 21. Actor Cooper



FREE Seminars
- Social Security Disability -

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

BALTIMORE EVENTS

Brew at the Zoo and Wine, Too!
 May 28 & 29 | 1pm - 7pm
 Food, beverages, live music and fun!
 Tickets required - purchase before May 14th and save \$5.
www.marylandzoo.org

Riots, Railroads & Mr. Lincoln
 Feb to Dec. 31, 2011 | 10am - 5pm
 Sports Legends Museum of Camden Yards
 301 West Camden St.
 Exhibition marks the 1st visit of President Lincoln, also exploring Civil War events & railroading.
 Members free - or \$8 adult, \$4 child
 410-727-1539

Behind the Mask of Tutankhamun
 June 19 | 2 - 3:30pm
 The Art Walters Museum
 600 N. Charles St.
 410-547-9000
 FREE - must register 443-573-1700

Baltimore in the Civil War
 Apr. 15 - Dec. 31 | 12 - 5pm
 Fell's Point Visitor Center
 1724 Thames St.
 410-675-6750

Debit Cards Not Always Best

People like their debit cards, because they are convenient and interest free. But sometimes a credit card is better for purchases like these:

- * Online. Some debit cards aren't covered by the law that gives you the right to dispute purchases. Credit cards are better here.
- * When buying Big Ticket items such as a television
- * Restaurants. The card is out of sight while being processed - there have been reports of adding or adjusting tips without advising the card holder.
- * Hotel reservations. Because the hotel has no way of knowing how much your final bill will be, they can place a generous hold on your bank account.
- * Automatic payments. Unless the charge is the same each month, such as for life insurance, money can be pulled out of your account before you can address any mistakes. If the unexpected withdrawal is for hundreds of dollars, it could cause problems.

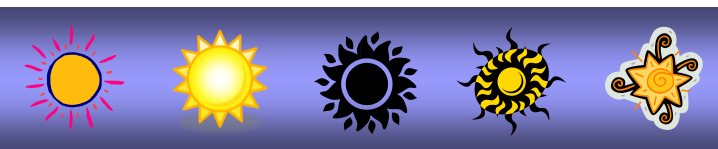
Save Energy Drying Clothes

When you wash a heavy load of towels or sweatshirts, run them through a second spin cycle in a top loading washing machine. For front loaders, put them through a second drain-and-spin cycle. You'll get more water out of heavy loads, which means they will take less time to dry.

Experts for Good Housekeeping recommend adding a second load to the dryer as soon as the first one is finished. It will take less energy to warm it up.

Add a clean dry towel to a wet load to absorb dampness and the load will dry faster.

Of course, the ultimate energy saver when drying clothes is to use a clothes line and let the sun do the work.



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

Call 410-823-8200
 or visit our website at
www.SharonChristieLaw.com



Sharon A. Christie Law

The **Law Office of Sharon A. Christie** helps disabled workers get disability benefits from Social Security. It is a long and complicated process and you should not go it alone.

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

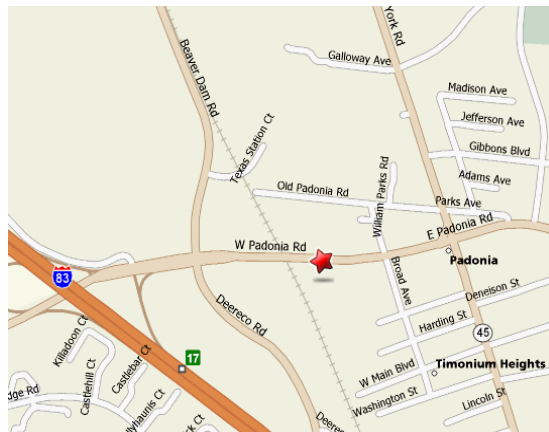
Sharon's clients receive the benefit of having their cases handled by a firm that knows the medicine AND the law.

If you have applied for Social Security disability benefits and need help, call the firm today. If you need more information about the process, go to the website and order a FREE copy of:

Sharon's Unofficial Guide to Social Security Disability Benefits

or register for one of her upcoming seminars!

For more information, visit our website at:
www.SharonChristieLaw.com.



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Practice Area:
Social Security Disability

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