

THE SLG ADVISOR

MAR
2021



Does Luck Determine Our Circumstances?

OR DO WE CREATE OUR CIRCUMSTANCES WITH OUR CHOICES?

Let me begin by stating that I am not a big believer in “good luck.” To me, what we often call “good luck” is, on closer observation, nothing more than opportunity meeting preparation. Over the course of my life, I’ve determined that luck, at least in the traditional sense of the concept, does not exist. I think about what it means to be lucky or unlucky sometimes, and with St. Patrick’s Day happening this month, it seems like a good time to share some of those thoughts.

For example, say two kids are born into the same set of circumstances, maybe

growing up in a tough neighborhood with very little money. Decades later, one of them might be “successful,” whether in their career, their family life, or some other way, while the other maybe hasn’t had that sort of success in their life. You might be tempted to attribute the success of one of them to luck, but in doing so, I think you run the risk of discounting all the hard work the successful kid did and the good choices he made BECAUSE of his tough upbringing.

In many ways, I was that first kid, and I realize now that good luck had little to do with it. I’ve had a great life and I don’t attribute it simply to good luck. With the help of God and family, I

made many good choices (and some bad ones, but that’s for another article) and worked my butt off. So, when I get the occasional “oh you’ve been so lucky,” I get ticked off.

Now, while I can confidently say that “good luck” doesn’t really exist, I will admit that “bad luck” is not as easy to explain away. You can make all the right choices in life and still end up suffering from a fatal illness or getting into a terrible car accident through no fault of your own. While the only real example of good luck that I can think of is maybe winning the lottery, I can think of all sorts of examples of bad luck. But, I still believe that even in the face of what appears to be “bad luck,” the choices we make when misfortune befalls us can make a huge difference on the quality of our remaining lives.

Earlier this year, I was skiing with my family, and I saw two profoundly handicapped skiers making their way

“I try to teach my kids that in life, every choice we make has a consequence, good or bad. If you continue to make good, wise choices, then it will be hard not to have good luck.”

Continued on Pg. 3 ...

Why Medical Records Are So Important

For Your Personal Injury Case

In any personal injury case, it goes without saying that the more evidence you have, the more likely it is that you will succeed in getting fair compensation. One of the most important forms of evidence in a personal injury case are your medical records: official notes taken by health care professionals about the cause, state, and progress of your injuries.

As important as medical records can be to the outcome of a case, I've found that many of my clients have a hard time being honest about their injuries, even with health care professionals. As an example, a common response (particularly from men) to a health care professional's question about the state of their injuries is to just say, "It's not bothering me that bad" — even if it is bothering them "that bad."

While that sort of response might not lead to any major consequences outside of the doctor's office, downplaying your injuries can make it seem like you don't need as much medical attention — or financial compensation — as you actually do. In short, failing to be completely honest with a medical professional about your injuries can end up hurting your personal injury case.

Having your medical records as evidence in your personal injury case helps tell a full and accurate story about the injuries you sustained in an accident. So, whether you're naturally inclined to downplay your injuries, or you're more inclined to do the opposite and exaggerate them, you should try to be as honest as you can about the injuries you sustained and the pain you may be experiencing. The more accurate the evidence in your case, the more likely you are to get a fair settlement or jury award.

In the end, insurance companies feel more pressure to offer a reasonable settlement when you have more evidence for your case, so it literally pays to be honest with your medical professionals as well as with your legal team. For more information about how Spada Law can help you win your case, call 617.889.5000 or visit our website at SpadaLawGroup.com for more info.

Why Sun Glare

FOR CAR ACCIDENTS

Even though we know to be more cautious when we're behind the wheel if it's snowing or there's ice on the road, there's solid evidence that even on clear, sunny days, the weather can play just as big a part in causing car accidents in the form of sun glare.

We've all driven with the sun right in our eyes, making it difficult to see the road ahead. Nevertheless, you should know that if sun glare causes you to hit a pedestrian or another vehicle, there is a very good chance that you will still be found at fault. That's because drivers have a legal duty to exercise reasonable care when driving in less-than-ideal weather conditions.

Driving with reasonable care means changing the way you drive depending on the surrounding conditions. So, when it comes to protecting pedestrians and other drivers when the sun is obscuring the road, here are a few ways you can keep yourself and others safe.

Slow WAY down. When you can't see, you can't react

Review of the Month



"One of the things that is very important to me is open communication. I was always able to reach my lawyer, Robyn, even during this pandemic. I really appreciated the attention to detail and the professional level as well as the family feel, understanding, and the patience. Everyone in the Spada Law Group was very friendly, and I felt represented. I'm very happy with my experience, and I highly recommend Spada Law Group. Thank you sincerely."

—Ayoub Hilal



e Is Not a Good Excuse

ACCIDENTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

as quickly to changing conditions. Give yourself more time to react by driving slower than you normally would.

Put more distance between yourself and other drivers. If you're having a hard time seeing, so is the person in front of you. Give them some room in case they brake abruptly.

Wear polarized sunglasses. These specialized lenses are particularly effective at helping drivers see in wet or snowy areas where reflections can cause extreme sun glare.

Keep your windshield clean. Dirty windshields can exacerbate the blinding effects of sun glare. Keep your windows clean and store window cleaning supplies in your vehicle.

Make sure you have extra wiper fluid. The last thing you want is to run out of wiper fluid on a sunny day.

Drive another way to work or home.

If you know that you'll have to drive directly into the sun on your usual commute, take another route home that has less sun glare.

If you've been injured in a car accident involving sun glare, give us a call. We have successfully handled cases involving solar glare in the past. Spada Law Group can help you get the compensation you deserve. Call us today at 617.889.5000 for a free consultation.



... continued from Cover

down the slopes. One was missing a leg, and the other had no use of either leg. Both were skiing!!! One was on one ski and the other was in a sled-type mechanism that allowed him to ski even though he couldn't move his legs. It was inspiring to me to see people who had obviously experienced "bad luck" choosing to fully embrace life and simply go for it. Not many in their circumstances make that choice.

I think it all goes back to those old adages: "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade" or "mold with the clay you've been given." I found myself wondering, "would I make that choice?" I pray I would. And if I did, I would be making my own luck.

I try to teach my kids that in life, every choice we make has a consequence, good or bad. If you continue to make good, wise choices, then it will be hard not to have good luck. The opposite is also true. Regardless of what sorts of choices you make though, I think it's important to remember that the only real luck we experience is the kind we make ourselves. So instead of wishing you all good luck, my wish is for you to make great choices and enjoy a good life.

-Len Spada

Local Chef's Corner

A St. Patty's Day Classic

Corned Beef and Cabbage



Even if you're reading this recipe after St. Patrick's Day, there's no reason you can't still enjoy a classic St. Patty's meal: corned beef and cabbage.

INGREDIENTS

- 3 lbs corned beef brisket with spice packet
- 10 small red potatoes
- 5 whole carrots
- 1 large head of cabbage

DIRECTIONS

1. Peel carrots and cut into 3-inch slices. Cut cabbage head into small wedges.
2. In a large pot or Dutch oven, cover corned beef with water. Add spice packet, cover pot, and bring to a boil before reducing to a simmer for 50 minutes.
3. Add potatoes and carrots and cook until they're almost tender, then add cabbage. Cook for 15 more minutes.
4. Take meat out and let it rest for 15 minutes before slicing it across the grain. Place vegetables in a bowl and cover. Add as much broth as you want.

111 Everett Ave., #1F
Chelsea, MA 02150

INSIDE

Luck vs. Choice: Which Controls Our Lives?

The Importance of Medical Records in an Injury Case

How to Guard Against Sun Glare While Driving

Testimonial

This Month's Recipe: Corned Beef and Cabbage

Meet This Life-Saving Rat From Cambodia



An African Rat Receives Prestigious Gold Medal for Saving Lives



A metal detector can take 1-4 days to detect land mines in the war-torn landscapes of Cambodia. However, a Gambian pouched rat named Magawa can detect them in 20 minutes.

Magawa's ability to sniff land mines has been lauded as "truly unique," as he potentially saves hundreds of lives every day. Yet, he weighs a mere 2.75 pounds and is only 28 inches long.

While that's larger than your average rodent, Magawa is still light enough to safely step over land mines without setting them off.

That's been amazing news for Cambodians. The land mine problem began during the civil wars of the '70s and '80s, causing over 64,000 casualties and creating 25,000 amputees since 1979.

But where did Magawa come from? A Belgium-registered charity named Apopo trained Magawa in Tanzania as part of the program HeroRATs where after a year of training, the animals become certified. This program has been around since the 1990s, teaching animals how to detect land mines and tuberculosis.

Magawa only works for a half-hour during the day, but as he nears retirement age at 7 years old, Magawa has sniffed out 39 land mines and 28

unexploded munitions in his career. His tremendous work has now been recognized worldwide.

In 2020, the U.K. veterinary charity PDSA gave Magawa its gold medal for "life-saving devotion to duty, in the location and clearance of deadly land mines in Cambodia." Over 30 animals have received this award so far, but Magawa is the first rat.

"To receive this medal is really an honour for us," Apopo's chief executive, Christophe Cox, told the Press Association news agency. "But also, it is big for the people in Cambodia, and all the people around the world who are suffering from land mines."

Now that's a real hero if we've ever seen one. Thank you, Magawa, for all your hard work, and we hope you have a long and happy retirement ahead of you!