

This Weekly Newsletter
is brought to you by

HOOK LAW CENTER
Legal Power for Seniors

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It's Summertime- Do You Know Where Your Children/Parents Are?

by Natalie A. Hale, CECC, Public Benefits Specialist

Yes, it's summer and folks are busy going on vacation- taking cruises, traveling across the country or overseas, off to camp... Just because it may be a 'short' trek does not mean you won't need important documents!

How many of us grandparents take care of our grandchildren while their parents go on vacation or take them on vacation ourselves? Do you know that, just because you are a relative, it does not mean you can authorize medical treatment other than life or death emergency treatment? You should have a written document from the parents authorizing you to act as the authorized agent for your grandchild/children.

If parents are traveling out of the country, you should have specific itinerary information included in the document to avoid unnecessary delays.

If parents go on vacation while their children are away at camp- who is the local contact person in an emergency? Do they have the appropriate authority to act in your stead?

The same advice goes in reverse. Most all of us are our parents' "agent" under a General Durable Power of Attorney and/or Advance Medical Directive. If the primary agent is going to be unavailable for a defined period of time, he/she should have a document attesting to this and pass the agent authority on to the successor agent for the duration of his/her absence. It is always a good idea in such situations to have this statement notarized.

Planning ahead with these simple steps will prevent unnecessary delays should the unthinkable happen while you're gone. A quick visit to the Hook Law Center can go a long way to a wonderful summer.... Come see us at Hook Law Center today to get your vacation plans in order!



Bike Courier and His Cat

Hook Law Center: Kit Kat, is there really such a thing as a bike-riding cat?

Kit Kat: This is an interesting story that I think my readers will like. Being a bike courier, a person who delivers packages or mail on a bike, is a relatively new phenomenon. Well, there is such a person named Raul Saldia of Philadelphia. But the interesting part only begins there. Raul has a pet cat named MJ which stands for Mary Jane. She is an orange tabby. Raul got the idea to have MJ ride along with him while he delivered packages and mail, because she always liked to plop herself on his shoulders at home. At first, he started with one block. Then , the next day she made it for 2 blocks, and so on, until he could have her ride around with him for 25 miles!

What is more amazing is that MJ is generally an indoor cat. This is her first experience being outdoors. And what an experience! Raul does not use any harness or leash to keep her balanced there. She has just figured out how to make it work. Raul wears a helmet, but MJ, I guess you would say, is riding bare. Now I don't know if I would recommend this for every cat and cat owner, but it seems to work for this pair. Raul obviously loves her, and MJ obviously enjoys being with her daddy.

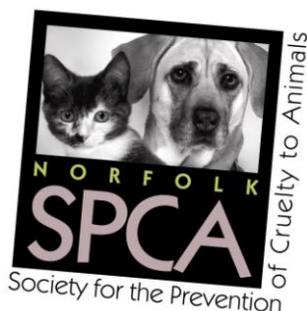
Another interesting tidbit is the way this whole story came to light. Raul mounted a GoPro camera to his bike, so he could document that his cat was indeed riding with him on his bike. It's become a YouTube favorite, since he posted it last October (2012). Go Pro has even used some of the footage in a commercial. MJ is now a movie star, though as of now, she only stars in one feature! Who knows what the future will hold. (Source = <http://shine.yahoo.com/pets/bike-courier-cat-co-pilot-131700283.html> May 31, 2013)

Upcoming Events

- Hook Law Center will be presenting a seminar to the Virginia Enrolled Agents at the Airport Hilton, 1500 North Military Highway, Norfolk, VA 23502 on **July 17, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.**
- Hook Law Center will be presenting at the Towne Bank Senior Partners Conference on **July 31, 2013.**
- Hook Law Center will be presenting a seminar on Special Needs Trusts at Hope House, 801 Boush Street, Suite 302, Norfolk, VA 23510 on **August 6, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.** This event, hosted by ARC of South Hampton Roads, is free and open to the public.
- Hook Law Center will be presenting at an Advanced Elder Law Seminar in Richmond, VA on **September 11, 2013.**
- Hook Law Center will be hosting a shred event at our Virginia Beach office on **September 21, 2013.**

Special Offer for Subscribers of Hook Law Center News: This Summer, Bring Home a New Best Friend!

The Norfolk SPCA is offering subscribers of Hook Law Center News a discount on adoptions this summer. As kids get out of school, it's a perfect time to welcome a new family member into your home! The adoption discount lasts through Labor Day.



Bring the whole family and find a wonderful new addition for your home!

Adoption Discount

Bring a copy of this ad at the time of adoption and receive a 20% discount off adoption fees:

- **\$30 off of the regular dog adoption fee of \$150.**
- **\$20 off of the regular cat adoption fee of \$100.**

View all the adoptable pets and check out the hours of operation at www.NorfolkSPCA.org/adopt. The Norfolk SPCA is open seven days a week and has lots of loving, homeless pets in need of new, forever homes. The shelter is located just off I-264 at the Ballentine Blvd. exit. Phone: (757) 622-3319.

Currently, more than 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease and that number is expected to grow to as many as 16 million by 2050. Our future is at risk unless we can find a way to change the course of this devastating disease.

This year, to help those affected by Alzheimer's, **Hook Law Center** is participating in the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's to raise funds and awareness. Everyone either has someone in their family, or they know someone whose life has been changed forever by Alzheimer's. For those individuals whose lives were taken by this unrelenting thief of memories and destroyer of lives, and for the many patients and their families, we invite you to donate and support the research that will beat this heartless thug of a disease into submission.

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research, and funds we raise will go directly toward supporting their efforts. We know **Team Hook Law Center** can make a difference with your support! It's easy to give online using the link below. http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk/VA-SoutheasternVirginia?team_id=87329&pg=team&fr_id=3766

The end of Alzheimer's starts here – with a gift from you.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



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