

# LAVAN & NEIDENBERG NEWSLETTER

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## SSA Benefits to go Paperless by 2013

### *Disability benefits will be deposited electronically*

By March 1, 2013 all federal benefit payments will be issued to recipients electronically – no more paper checks to deposit or cash!

The Social Security Administration is making the switch to this paperless system in an effort to help speed up payments and avoid lost checks. Benefit recipients can use the new system even if they do not have a bank account to receive the direct deposit.

While this can be a great help to many disabled individuals, some may find the transition a bit hard to handle. The disability lawyers at The Law Offices of LaVan & Neidenberg, P.A. are here to help current benefit recipients and new applicants make sure they receive their payments.

If you are an existing disability benefit recipient you can switch to the electronic payments immediately. You can do this either by applying online, calling the SSA hotline at 800-333-1795, or contacting your disability attorney for assistance.

New claimants who are approved for Social Security disability benefits will be asked to set up electronic payment at the time of approval. In both cases when establishing your electronic payments you will need your bank account information (account type, account number, and the routing number).



### **Two Ways to Receive Your Benefits**

Don't have a bank account already? Don't want to set up direct deposit? No problem! There is also the option to have your disability benefits payment sent to you through a prepaid debit card.

The debit card works just like a bank debit card – your monthly benefits are available for use anywhere debit cards are accepted. There are no fees for most services, including retail purchases, cash back, and cash withdrawals at certain surcharge-free network ATMs.

On payment day each month your disability benefits will be posted immediately, rather than be sent to you via check. This means the typical 2-3 day wait time for the check to arrive, and then time to clear in a bank, is negated, allowing you access to your money much sooner!

If you are unsure how to change your payment option, or are seeking to apply for benefits and need to decide how to receive them, we are here to help! The Law Offices of LaVan & Neidenberg, P.A. can help you notify the SSA of your payment preference and get your monthly benefits into your account quicker than ever!

### **Contacting a Disability Attorney**

At The Law Offices of LaVan & Neidenberg, P.A. we strive to help disabled claimants at all stages of their disability claim. No matter what your situation, you have nothing to lose by contacting us for a copy of our [free disability eBook](#).

To schedule a no cost case evaluation you can [contact us today](#) to get your claim reviewed and discover how a disability attorney can help you get the benefits you are entitled to – **1-888-234-5758**.

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## Summer Travel Safety Tips

***Many families hit the road in summer, stay safe!***

The call of the open road is upon us! Summer is a great time for road trips, or just a drive to a nearby park or attraction. No matter your destination, there are a few things you can do to help keep you and your family safe during this high-traffic time.

As you plan your vacation remember the safety of your home first, especially for long trips. You may want to unplug sensitive electronics like TVs and computers if you live in an area prone to thunderstorms. Make sure all windows and doors are secure, and ask a neighbor to check up on things once in a while.

Social safety is also important when you're leaving your home unattended. There have been many reports of burglaries where the house was specifically targeted because the owner made it public on Facebook that they were gone. While this may be just paranoia, it's best not to broadcast an empty house on the Internet.

Before you leave, make sure your vehicle is in top condition. Have a routine maintenance check done for the tires, battery, fluids and belts, and make sure you're up to date on your oil and filter changes. Some driving essentials you'll want in your trunk include a first aid kit, jumper cables, a blanket, water, and a flashlight.

While on the road, be mindful that this is the season for travel and there will most likely be more traffic than usual. Especially prevalent in the summer months are large RVs and small motorcycles. You need to exercise caution near both types of vehicles to avoid accidents.

Speaking of traffic, police will be out in full force especially on holiday weekends like Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and Labor Day. Because these weekends are notorious for high travel volume as well as DUI, you'll notice police cracking down on reckless drivers. Obey the rules of the road, don't drink and drive, and you'll have nothing to worry about!

Long road trips can be taxing, both physically and mentally. Unless you've got a super-strict time schedule to reach your destination, make sure you drop in a few fun stops along the way, or at least make frequent pit stops every 2 hours. [AAA.com](http://AAA.com) and other travel websites have great lists of things to see along your route, and there are many road trip guidebooks to suggest interesting places to stop at and take a break.

Be mindful of your safety during the summer travel season and you'll have a great time enjoying life!

## HEALTH NEWS

### ***New Prostate Cancer Drug Approved by FDA***

Men with advanced stage prostate cancer have a new ally in their fight. For patients with hormone-resistant prostate cancer that also did not respond to chemotherapy, Zytiga may be the answer to extending survival with this deadly disease.

Zytiga has been approved by the FDA to be used with Prednisone to help prolong life with advanced stages of prostate cancer. The drug works by inhibiting the production of testosterone, which promotes the growth of the cancerous cells.

Researchers found that men taking Zytiga had an average survival rate of 14.8 months, compared with the 10.9 months seen in men who took a placebo. This opens up a new treatment option for men who have exhausted all other therapies.

The side effects from Zytiga are minor, and the related complications such as low white blood cells, high blood pressure, and abnormal liver function tests are all manageable. The drug is not cheap, with a \$5,000/month price tag, and may not be covered by some insurances.

### **QUICK FIX MEAL TIP**

#### **Family Flatbread Pizzas**



You don't need amazing dough-tossing skills or a fancy oven to make delicious and easy pizzas at home! This meal lets everyone choose what they want and works great in the oven or on the grill!

Purchase pre-baked flatbreads, pitas, or Naan bread at your grocery store. Make sure they're thick enough to handle toppings!

A bottle of pasta sauce or pizza sauce should be next and a bag of shredded mozzarella. Grab any type of veggie or meat toppings your family likes (pre cook your meat!).

Let everyone assemble their own pizza and place them on a baking sheet in the oven at 350° for about 10 minutes or until cheese melts. For grilling, place on grate over hot coals and tent a piece of tinfoil over the top of each pizza to help melt the cheese. Enjoy!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June means summer is officially here on the 21<sup>st</sup> with the summer solstice. The kids are out of school, families prepare for vacations, and the weather heats up!

### FLAG DAY – TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2011

This is a day to show your American pride by flying Old Glory high and proud! Celebrate this observance by flying our colors and make sure your flag is in good condition. If your American flag becomes faded or damaged, it's time to retire it. Many local Boy Scout troops and community centers offer free flag retirement ceremonies around this date to preserve the honor and pride of one of our nation's most iconic symbols.

### FATHER'S DAY – SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2011

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in June is the day to honor and celebrate the fathers in our lives. Whether it be your own biological father, a grandfather, step-father, adopted father or a father-figure, take time this day to appreciate them for all they do!

Don't forget to wish male friends who are fathers a happy Father's Day, too!

### MISCELLANEOUS JUNE HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

June is the month for...

- Dairy
- Gay Pride
- Adopting a Cat (Hug Your Cat day is June 4!)
- Fresh Fruit & Vegetables

There are also several other lesser known holidays in June such as:

- National Donut Day (June 3)
- Nursing Assistants Day (June 10, which kicks off National Nursing Assistants Week)
- Go Fishing Day (June 18 – maybe tie this in with Father's Day?)
- National Pink Day (June 23)
- Forgiveness Day (June 26)

Take time and celebrate a new holiday this summer!

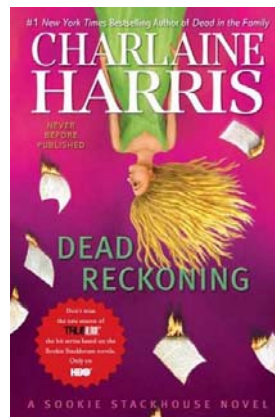
### SIGN OUR PETITION FOR FREE MEDICAL RECORDS!

LaVan & Neidenberg is sponsoring a petition to change medical records fees in the State of Florida. Currently, patients are required to pay up to \$1 per page to obtain a copy of their own medical records. The Firm's legislative initiative proposes to **make medical records FREE for all individuals applying for disability benefits.**

Please join us in our fight and [sign our petition](#) today! Thank you for your support!

## Book of the Month

*Dead Reckoning* by Charlaine Harris



With her knack for being in trouble's way, Sookie witnesses the firebombing of Merlotte's, the bar where she works. Since Sam Merlotte is now known to be two-natured, suspicion falls immediately on the anti-shifters in the area. Sookie suspects otherwise, but her attention is divided when she realizes that her lover Eric Northman and his "child" Pam are plotting to kill the vampire who is now their master. Gradually, Sookie is drawn into the plot - which is much more complicated than she knows.

Part of the *Sookie Stackhouse* novels – the basis for HBO's popular *True Blood* TV series!

### Flag Day Fun Facts

- Although not an official federal holiday, President Woodrow Wilson established June 14 as Flag Day in 1916, followed by Harry S. Truman establishing National Flag Day as an Act of Congress in 1949.
- The oldest Flag Day parade has been held since 1909 or 1910 in Fairfield, Washington.
- Bernard J. Cigrand is credited with the first successful movement to create a Flag Day observance in the 1880s while he was attending dental school in Chicago.
- The proper folding procedure for the U.S. Flag consists of 13 specific folds, each with a special meaning.
- The U.S. Flag is alive! The U.S. Code, Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 8(j) says "The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing."