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## APRIL 2024

### HOW DOES SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT YOUR PERSONAL INJURY CASE?

You may have seen the viral story circulating last month about a woman's \$820,000 insurance claim getting dismissed after a photo surfaced. It sounds like the sort of thing you'd see play out on a sitcom, but in 2018 a photo was discovered of the woman participating in, and winning, a Christmas tree throwing contest during the proceedings of her personal injury case after claiming she sustained significant neck and back pain from a car crash. This photo that was published by a national newspaper and shared across social media, highlights how embedded media is in our daily lives. Photos and videos play a huge part in legal claims today and unsurprisingly, this case was dismissed.

While this may be an extreme situation, it is important to keep in mind how social media can impact your personal injury claim. What you engage with online can affect the outcome of your case and it is crucial to exercise caution. Here are some things to be aware of regarding your social presence during your injury claim:

1. Evidence Preservation: Did you know that what you post online can be used as evidence in your case? Insurance companies can and will scour social media profiles for information that may contradict your injury claims. If you claim to have suffered severe injuries but post photos of yourself engaging in physical activities, it could undermine your credibility and the severity of your injuries.
2. Statements and Comments: Anything you post or even comment on can be used against you. Even innocent comments or statements can be taken out of context or misinterpreted by the opposing party to discredit your claim.
3. Privacy Settings: Adjusting your privacy settings may not necessarily protect you. Even if your profile is set to private, there are ways for the opposing party to access your social media content through mutual connections, subpoenas, or court orders. Assume that anything you post online could become public.
4. Damaging Content: Be mindful about what others post about you. Friends or family members may unknowingly share content that could harm your case. Educate your close contacts about the importance of discretion regarding your injury and legal matters.
5. Consult with Your Attorney: Before posting anything related to your injury or case on social media, consult with your personal injury attorney. They can provide guidance on what is appropriate to share and what should be avoided to protect your legal interests.

Even after your case is settled, it is important to practice discretion. Disclosing the amount of money you received from your case online can also cause negative repercussions. Not only can it impact your relationships, but it can compromise your privacy and put you at risk. Always consult your attorney on the legal implications of disclosing the details of your court settlement. A good rule of thumb is to only consult with trusted advisors about the details of your case.

### Fort Collins April Events

Courtesy of [visitfortcollins.com](http://visitfortcollins.com)

Every 3rd Friday of Each Month - All year long!

#### The Downtown Fort Collins Foodie Walk



This is a self-guided tour for all you foodies out there. From 5-8pm each third Friday of the month, explore Downtown's thriving culinary scene!

#### April 14th, 2024 The Horsetooth Half Marathon



The 51st annual race is coming up! This route takes you from Hughes Stadium all the way to New Belgium Brewing. Don't forget about the \$11,000 prize pot!

#### APRIL 20th, 2024 Earth Day Fort Collins



In Civic Center Park from 11am-5pm enjoy a day of fun to celebrate Earth Day! This event includes kid's activities, arts and crafts, live music, local food trucks and more.

### TESTIMONIALS

See what our clients have to say!

"My experience with Vanmeveren Law Group was the best. I mainly worked with Catharine Fullerton to resolve my case. Not only was she professional and did everything she said she was going to do, but her communication was stellar. Every week she called me with a status report and to make sure I knew exactly where we were with my case. We would also strategize and make sure that I was on board with what they were proposing to do for the next step going forward. Personal injury cases are challenging and frustrating with all the hoops you must jump through. VanMeveren Group always took the lead and made my experience the best they could. I'm happy and recommend them 100 %." - Former Client

### NEW LEGISLATION TO COMBAT DISTRACTED DRIVING IN COLORADO

Distracted driving related accidents in Colorado reached a record high in 2023. Bicyclists and pedestrians are more vulnerable than ever due to the increased use of hand-held electronic devices by drivers. New legislation recently introduced will help protect vulnerable road users. SB24-065 prohibits drivers of all ages from holding mobile electronic devices while driving. To learn more about the bill, visit the [State of Colorado website](http://State of Colorado website). To get involved or receive updates, visit [Bicycle Colorado](http://Bicycle Colorado). Let's keep our pedestrians and cyclists safe!



### Welcome Back Jenn!



Jenn Schossow returned to VanMeveren Law Group in February. Prior to rejoining the firm, Jenn handled a wide variety of insurance claims for a major carrier for more than 11 years, including Medical Payment and Injury claims. This experience provided her with an extensive knowledge of insurance policy language, coverages, and the insurance claim process. This background, along with her dedication to helping injured individuals and her prior legal assistant experience with our firm is a great asset to our clients as they navigate injury cases. Jenn is excited to be back with the firm and looks forward to helping you.

### Adoptable Pet of the Month

Cookie Crisp

VanMeveren Law Group is a proud supporter of Animal Friends Alliance. Learn more about how you can adopt, foster or get involved at [savinganimalstoday.org](http://savinganimalstoday.org) or call the AFA Taft Hill Shelter at (970)-484-8516



Introducing Cookie Crisp - a delightful and affectionate canine companion ready to steal your heart! This charming pup is as sweet as her name. This social butterfly gets along famously with other dogs, making her the perfect addition to a multi-pet household. Her enthusiasm for playtime and wagging tail are sure to bring joy to any dog-loving family. To keep up with Cookie Crisp's active spirit, a fenced-in yard is a must. This spirited pooch loves to explore and play, and a secure outdoor space would allow her to burn off energy and indulge in her curious nature safely. Please reach out to meet me!

### Follow us on social media!



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