



Cecil & Geiser <sup>LLP</sup>  
PROTECTINGOHIO.COM

Brought to you by:  
Andrew W. Cecil  
Michael K. Geiser  
Sydney S. McLafferty  
Matthew E. Ice

Help Us Help You  
Page 3

Charitable Spotlight  
Page 4

# Cecil & Geiser <sup>LLP</sup>

ProtectingOhio.com

495 South High Street, Suite 400  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone: 614-222-4444  
877-706-6446  
info@ProtectingOhio.com  
ProtectingOhio.com

## Are you CPR Certified?

By Andy Cecil

In mid-January, I watched a friend and colleague dying. At a board meeting for a trial lawyer organization, I had just talked to "Mike" for ten minutes. Literally ten minutes later he was on the floor.

We were very lucky in that a CPR re-certification class for health care personnel was underway just across the hall. The facility also had a portable defibrillator machine. Everything went right but it just wasn't to be. I am not sure if it was a massive heart attack, stroke or perhaps aneurysm. Regardless, Mike died in a local hospital.

While standing there watching all this go on, I kept thinking how lucky Mike was to have the CPR class there, the portable defibrillator on hand and a fast response from emergency personnel. Though my friend did not survive, he was given a chance because others took the time to learn CPR and how to operate the portable defibrillator. I then wondered what would have happened had it been me in my office, at home or out on the street.

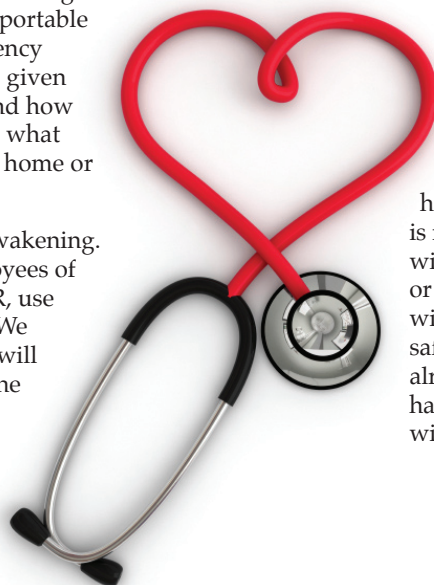
The loss of my friend has certainly given me a rude awakening. Beginning this year, within the next 30 days, all employees of Cecil & Geiser will be trained by the Red Cross in CPR, use of portable defibrillator machines and basic first aid. We will make re-certification an annual event. All of this will take place "on company time" as we don't want anyone to feel they do not have the time to undertake this training.

CPR continued on page 2

## Windshield wipers on? Better make sure your headlights are on too.

By Sydney McLafferty

Effective January 1st, it is now a secondary offense to drive without your headlights on in inclement weather. While this law has been in effect in sixteen other states, it is now law in Ohio that you must have your windshield wipers on in mist, rain, snow, ice or any other weather requiring windshield wipers. The law is designed at improving safety on the road in times when visibility may already be diminished by the weather. By having your headlights on, oncoming traffic will be more likely to see you. Many cars with



TICKET continued on page 2

# Helpful Tips for Credit Card Theft

Below are some tips on credit card theft we recently received. We thought they were good enough to share.

- Do not sign the back of your credit cards. Instead, put “**Photo ID Required.**”
- When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, do not put the complete account number on the memo line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won’t have access to it.
- Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a P.O. Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a P.O. Box use your work address. Never have your social security number printed on your checks. You can add it if it is necessary.
- Make photocopies of the contents of your wallet – front and back. You will know what you had in your wallet, all of the account numbers and the phone numbers to call and cancel the cards. Keep the photocopy in a safe place.



We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them.

- File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where your credit cards or other items were stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent and this is a first step toward an investigation.

What is perhaps most important of all:

- Call the 3 national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and also call the Social Security fraud line number. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

Here are the numbers you always need to contact about your wallet, if it has been stolen:

## Equifax

www.equifax.com  
1-888-766-0008

## Experian

www.experian.com  
1-888-397-3742

## Trans Union

www.transunion.com  
1-800-680 7289

## Social Security Administration Fraud Line

1-800-269-0271

CPR continued from page 1

I urge each of you to become certified in these life saving techniques. Contact the American Red Cross and find out when and where the courses are being offered. If you are an employer or in a position of management, offer this training to your staff and employees. Contact your church, club or sports league and suggest that the course be offered to members and even the public if room is available.

The first few minutes are critical in medical emergencies. Having a cell phone to call 911 is great but the delay between the call and arrival of emergency personnel could be the difference between life and death. Though my friend did not survive, I know that he was given a chance due to the actions of strangers. I will always be grateful to these strangers for their efforts that day. I am especially grateful that sometime before that day, these strangers were not “too busy” to learn CPR from the Red Cross.

TICKET continued from page 1

daytime running lights may automatically comply with the new requirements. Since it is a secondary offense, a ticket can only be issued if you are pulled over for another primary offense.

Another recent change to Ohio traffic laws include the requirements to slow down or change lanes when passing a tow truck along the side of the road. Fines for this violation can range between \$300 and \$500. And starting April 7, 2010, drivers can be ticketed and fined for not having children ages four (4) through seven (7) that are shorter than four (4) feet, nine (9) inches in a booster seat.

## GoodSearch

**Benefit a charity while you shop online. Visit [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) to shop your favorite retailers online and they will donate a percentage of your purchase to your favorite charity.**

# Help Us, to Help You

By Andy Cecil

It seems like about two or three times per year we run into circumstances that require us to “back track”. Missed medical charges, unknown doctor visits or undisclosed treatment can bring a stop to our forward progress as we try to represent each of you. With that in mind, I thought a “refresher” might be helpful.

When we take on your case and during the entire process we need YOU to keep us current on matters. We communicate with your doctors but if we are not told that you are seeing a doctor, we have no reason to contact that person.

Here is a list of “DO’S” that will make our job representing you much more efficient:

1. Notify us when you have a change of address, job or phone number. You would be surprised how much effort we spend sometimes trying to locate someone who has changed their phone number or address. If you don't tell us, we will never know.
2. When you go to see a doctor or medical facility for the first time, let us know. If possible, pick up a business card. Most medical offices have a front desk that has business cards sitting there for you.

When you stop seeing that doctor, let us know. If doctor A refers you to doctor B, let us know, even if they are in the same practice.

3. When you get medical bills, pass them on to us. Waiting until you are finished treating before sending the bills could cause delay. Many times, the bills have information or “leads” that tell us of other services. We then need to track down that information. The sooner we get the information from you, the sooner we get started tracking down the information.

4. If you call in and wish to speak to your attorney and she/he is not available, leave a message. I try to tell each of my clients that if you

want a call back, I don't know that unless you tell someone. In my case, if you speak to Shelly or Susan but do not ask that I call back, I assume that my assistants were able to answer your questions.

5. Most important of all, don't be afraid to ask questions or to call us. We want to keep you informed and answer all of your questions but we cannot do so if you don't ask. About once a month I will get a call from someone that is not one of our clients, wanting an answer to a question. When I ask them “did you ask your attorney?” I am typically told “No” or “I never understand what my lawyer tells me”. We never want any of our clients feeling like they do not understand what is going on. However, if you don't ask the question, we cannot possibly answer it.



At Cecil & Geiser, LLP we handle most types of cases including:

Defective Products  
Wrongful Death  
Serious Injury  
Vehicle Collisions  
Professional Negligence  
Dog Bite Injuries  
Nursing Home Negligence

We have successfully represented plaintiffs in civil matters for more than three decades. We have Board Certified Civil Trial Counsel on staff and two of our attorneys are members of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum. We appreciate your referrals. Visit our website, [ProtectingOhio.com](http://ProtectingOhio.com), for more information.



*Andrew W. Cecil and Michael K. Geiser*

## Charitable Spotlight: Holiday Wish Program

Once again, this past December, Cecil & Geiser, LLP sponsored eight children in the Franklin County Children's Services Holiday Wish Program. With the help of our staff, the wish lists of four children under the age of 11 were purchased and wrapped and gift cards for four children over the age of 12 were donated.

The Holiday Wish Program provides a gift for each child in the Franklin County foster care system during the holiday season. The younger children are able to create a small wish list while the older children are given gift cards to shop with. For more information about this wonderful program log on to [www.co.franklin.oh.us/Childrens\\_Services](http://www.co.franklin.oh.us/Childrens_Services).



**Cecil & Geiser**<sup>LLP</sup>

[PROTECTINGOHIO.COM](http://PROTECTINGOHIO.COM)

495 South High Street, Suite 400  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

