



# MONAHAN LAW PRACTICE, P.C.

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*Updated weekly with important and valuable information.*

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## *Season's Greetings!*

*Celebrate the peace and beauty of the holiday season!*

*We wish you and yours happiness and good health  
in the coming year. We would also like to say thank you  
for choosing our legal services and for referring your  
family, neighbors, and colleagues to us.*

*Monahan Law Practice, P.C.*

## HOME SECURITY TIPS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

***When you are home, here are five quick and easy crime deterrents:***

- 1.** A neighborhood watch can be a valuable method for sharing information and spreading the word about recurring incidents, and members are more likely to be aware of warning signs.
- 2.** Security systems can obviously help alert authorities. A trick if you cannot afford a security system is to place the sign in your yard or on your front window or door.
- 3.** Dogs remain one of the most effective ways to prevent crime. Even smaller dogs

can scare off criminals. Once again, just using a "Beware of Dog" sign might work.

- 4.** Exterior lighting outside the entrances will prevent most criminals from attempting to enter your home. Motion sensors along your side yards will startle any trespassers and alert you at the same time.

- 5.** Panic buttons for your car alarm can be used inside the house. Keeping your keys handy is a great way to frighten off someone trying to break into your home.

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## HOME SECURITY TIPS DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

(continued from page 1)

### **While on vacation, try some of these techniques:**

- Use timers on lights, TVs, and stereos at random times.
- Hire house-sitters to watch your home.
- Ask neighbors to remove flyers and packages.
- Turn your phone's ringer to low so a burglar will not be alerted of your absence.
- Arrange for yard care.
- Stop incoming mail and newspaper delivery.
- Have a neighbor park in your driveway.
- Leave a key with a trusted neighbor and refrain from leaving a key under the mat.

### **Other important advice:**

- Eliminate any easy entry into your home by securing sliding doors or windows with a piece of wood.
- Secure all open windows.
- Establish a relationship with a neighbor to reciprocate in keeping an eye on your property while the other is away.
- Keep records of your belongings, including photos, serial numbers, and receipts for potential insurance claims.



## MY DAD, THE G-MAN... (continued from page 4)

dresser drawer each morning before he left. He spent most of the next several years spying on the head of the Communist Party in America, William Z. Foster, and he had some funny stories about his time there. On one occasion, while dressed like a bum in the New Jersey Transit Authority while on a surveillance, he was approached by a wino for some money to buy liquor. My father told him to move on and leave him alone (as he was in the middle of an undercover investigation). An hour or so later, the wino returned to share a newfound bottle of wine with my dad! Even the winos

**Q: Why should YOU visit [www.MonahanLawPractice.com](http://www.MonahanLawPractice.com)?**

**A: To learn the answers to important questions like these, and many more.**

### **AUTO ACCIDENTS**

**Q:** I was in a small fender-bender when my car crashed into another car. The damage was significant and everyone in the other car said they were okay. I am afraid if I report the accident, my insurance rates will go up. What should I do in this situation?

**Q:** What is my insurance company required to pay?

**Q:** How much time do I have to file a lawsuit in Pennsylvania?

### **WORKERS' COMP**

**Q:** If I qualify to receive Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), will I still receive workers' compensation benefits?

**Q:** Can I recover if the injury is my own fault or the result of a co-employer?

### **INADEQUATE SECURITY AND CRIME-VICTIM CASES**

**Q:** What's the difference between criminal and civil justice?

**Q:** If I win my case, will I be able to collect the money?

**Be sure to request your copy of my FREE booklets as well.**

have a sense of comradeship, I suspect.

There are many other great stories, like the time he interviewed Sidney Portier, the actor, who my father remembers as a real gentleman. Or the time he was personally commended by J. Edgar Hoover for work he had performed. I still have the letter that Mr. Hoover sent my parents congratulating them on my birth. So if you are ever in my office and want to see that letter, don't hesitate to ask me. (But I don't have any pictures of Hoover in a dress, I promise.)

# *In new book, constitutional law scholar, Marci Hamilton, calls for all states to eliminate statutes of limitations in cases of childhood sexual abuse*

In a new book, *Justice Denied: What America Must Do to Protect Its Children*, constitutional law professor Marci Hamilton of Yeshiva University in New York predicts a coming civil rights movement for children and explains why it is in the interest of all Americans to allow victims of childhood sexual abuse this chance to seek justice when they are ready.

The central theme of her book is that statutes of limitations for childhood sexual abuse should be treated like murder, not property, because in essence it is the murder of the victim's childhood or their soul. And it is in society's best interest to have survivors identify their abusers. If not, whether or not you are a survivor, we all pay a price in lost output for survivors and mammoth medical costs of treating the physical and psychological injuries.

Twenty-five percent of girls are sexually abused in childhood; the number is 20 percent for boys. Only 10 percent of sexual-abuse victims come forward to authorities, and then only a handful of their stories appear in the news. Contrary to popular misconceptions about sexual abusers, they are almost always someone the family knows and who has gained the trust of the victim. Affection, admiration, and trust are typically a vital part of the complex relationship between a child and an abuser. Abusers "groom" their victims patiently until they can trap the child into sex and silence. As a consequence, victims slide into suicide or drug or alcohol addiction, not to mention underperformance at work, sexual dysfunction, and difficulties with intimacy that can lead to divorce and family disintegration.

While most child-abuse reforms to date (harsher penalties, civil commitment, tracking, pedophile-free zones, and Megan's Law) are heralded, these all presume we know who the predators are. Mandatory child-abuse reporting is inadequate, and experience shows that unless the penalties for failure to report are severe, most institutions and individuals ignore the reporting laws. Most states only consider it at best a misdemeanor with small fines.

Only if the statutes of limitations are abolished will the other approaches become more effective tools in reducing the incidence of child sex abuse by merely increasing our knowledge of the actual identities of the abusers.

## **What states and the federal government must do:**

Abolish all statutes of limitations for childhood sexual abuse, first for all cases going forward; secondly, create a window for abuse survivors whose claims were cut short by overly short statutes of limitations in the past.

There are several institutional barriers that must be overcome:

### **Barrier #1:**

#### ***The insurance industry***

The insurance industry had sided with its organizational consumers and tries to undermine childhood sexual abuse legislative reform. They represent one of the more powerful lobbyists in the United States. They raised insurance interests to delay window legislation in Pennsylvania.

### **Barrier #2:**

#### ***The Roman Catholic Church hierarchy***

First they argue they could not prevent the abuse. Then they argue that statutes of limitations reform will increase false claims. However, the Church lobbies as if theirs was the only entity affected. In New York at the New York State Catholic Conference, Dennis Poust, their spokesperson, said: "This is simply trial lawyers trying to enrich themselves by taking advantage of a tragic thing that happened."

Catholics argue that legislative reform targets the Catholic Church. But it is responsible for only a small fraction of the total number of child sex-abuse survivors, and we owe every survivor a day in court.

### **Barrier #3:**

#### ***Teachers, defense attorneys, and uninformed public***

The fact is, children are most at risk of sex abuse where we think they are safest: at home, school, and at church. And in addition to the Catholic Church and the insurance industry, the enemies of legislative reform for shorter statutes of limitations are teachers and their unions, defense attorneys, including the ACLU, and a woefully uninformed public.

You are invited to contact your state legislators to urge them to reform the statutes of limitations to prevent these tragedies from continuing to occur, victimizing our children.



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Make sure you consult a qualified lawyer so you can discuss the facts of your case.



## **MY DAD, THE G-MAN: *Special Agent Gene Monahan***

On a recent trip to Washington, D.C., my wife and I decided to visit the National Spy Museum on a rainy Sunday. We have visited Washington on numerous occasions, and there is always something to do. But this time we decided to do something a little different from the usual tourist activities. It was especially interesting because my father, Eugene M. Monahan, was an FBI Special Agent when I was a child.

After service as a Naval cadet at the Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point and transporting U.S. troops from the Far East after World War II, and then graduating from Fordham College in New York City, where he grew up the son and grandson of New York City cops, he heard about the Federal Bureau of Investigation needing chemists for scientific investigations in their labs. J. Edgar Hoover, the longtime Director of the Bureau, apparently favored Jesuit-

educated FBI agents, and soon my father was training with the Bureau.

Once there, however, he learned that they needed more Special Agents for Internal Security investigations (remember, this was the 1950s during the height of the Communist scare and Senator Joe McCarthy’s crusade to rid the government of secret Soviet agents). After training at Quantico, Virginia, and the Bureau headquarters in Washington, he was quickly assigned to duty in San Francisco. In a year or so, he was transferred to the Los Angeles office, where I was born.

In California, he investigated suspected Communists and Communist front organizations. One woman, a Mrs. Yates, whom he arrested for advocating the violent overthrow of the United States government in violation of the 1940 Smith Act, took her case to the United States Supreme Court, where she won. You can imagine my surprise when I read about the case in my constitutional law course in law school.

Dad was later transferred back to the East Coast, where he worked in New York City. I remember asking him to lift me up to see his gun in his top

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