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Vengeful Husband sues Ex−Wife for Secondhand Smoke Illness...

By Heidi McKenzie

Charleston, SC 3/24/05− After 13 years of marriage, a Florida man divorces his wife and sues her,

claiming his wife's 2 to 3 pack−a−day smoking habit caused him to contract life−threatening lung cancer in Palm Beach (case id 501997CA01158XXONAN). When the effects of secondhand smoke becomes so bad that a husband is willing to sue his ex−wife, a woman he once loved, people must begin to open their eyes to the dangers and liabilities caused by secondhand tobacco smoke exposure.

Heather Crowe is from Ottawa and has worked in the restaurant business for over 40 years as a waitress. In 2002, the Ottawa Citizen reported that she was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer that she claims was caused by her constant exposure to secondhand smoke as a result of her working at the restaurant. Heather filed for workers compensation due to her illness hoping that this would urge lawmakers to enforce stricter codes to protect workers in the hospitality industry from exposure to secondhand cigarette smoke. Currently, most state and provincial laws limit smoking areas to a small percentage of the usable floor space of the hospitality establishment; however, this does not guarantee workers, or patrons, are protected from the harmful byproducts of the secondhand smoke.

Everyday, people in the hospitality industry go to work and are exposed to significant amounts of secondhand smoke. Restaurant servers, bartenders, and even hotel employees are forced to stifle their concerns about having to work while being exposed to a patron's secondhand smoke for fear of losing their jobs. Secondhand cigarette smoke contains over 4,000 potential poisons and most are chemicals not even studied by the FDA. Of those 4,000 toxic chemicals, 69 are KNOWN cancer causing agents. A nonsmoker who works in a smoking environment has a 26% increased risk of developing lung cancer. Additionally, secondhand smoke exposure has been linked to esophageal, throat, and mouth cancer and in the United States alone, over 65,000 deaths a year are linked to secondhand smoke related illnesses. Due to this dramatic rise in secondhand smoke related deaths (3,000 deaths just ten years ago) more and more hospitality industry employers are being held liable for these sicknesses, losing millions of dollars as a result of these lawsuits.

Many states have implemented non−smoking laws in most or all public buildings. Other states have enforced stricter building codes requiring effective air purification or ventilation systems in order to reduce secondhand smoke exposure. Dr. Craig Donnelly, a smoke eater industry expert and founder of

BPA Air Quality Solutions states, "According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the 3 best methods for reducing indoor air pollution are:

1. Source Control: Eliminate or control the sources of pollution;

2. Ventilation: Dilute and exhaust pollutants through outdoor air ventilation, and

3. Air Cleaning: Remove pollutants through proven air cleaning methods.

Source control and ventilation are usually not viable options because most hospitality establishments do not restrict smoking 100% and ventilation' can be extremely expensive due the energy cost associated with ventilating warm or air conditioned air to the outdoors."

"Air cleaning", Dr. Donnelly continues, "is the method of choice for a large percentage of hospitality

businesses using 'smoke eaters', a class of air purifications products designed to remove smoke particles, odors and toxic gasses from the indoor air."

Using the correct smoke air purification equipment in the hospitality industry will significantly improve the indoor air quality potentially reducing cancer causing pollutants produced by secondhand smoke.

"We have noticed that employers who install an effective smoke eater air cleaning system in their place of business have employees and patrons who frequently acknowledge the marked improvement with the indoor air quality and they (employees and patrons) also acknowledge that symptoms associated with breathing in second hand tobacco smoke such as coughing and irritated eyes are dramatically reduced" − Dr. Craig Donnely.

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About the Author Dr Craig Donnelly is the founder of BPA Air Quality Solutions /

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BreathePureAir.com specializes in indoor air quality solutions, such as,

commercial smoke eaters for restaurants and businesses. Dr. Donnelly and his staff test, rate and review a complete selection of commercial smoke eaters from around the world. Available to the staff

are several engineers that can design a smoke eater system specific to your needs. BreathePureAir.com carries a large selection of commercial smoke eaters and manufacturers. This gives Dr. Donnelly and his staff an unbiased opinion as to which purifier could be the best for you. Visit or call toll free today!

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Unintended Consequences

By Wayne and Tamara

Direct Answers − Column for the week of May 26, 2003

My sister is celebrating her tenth anniversary this summer, and I'm concerned she is letting her relationship go. Her husband refuses to acknowledge any problems and doesn't believe in counseling.

At the time my sister married, she was a successful businesswoman with a promising career. She worked through the birth of her second child, putting her husband through school, buying his first dental practice, and making their mortgage payments. She became a full−time mom at the birth of her third child.

Her husband just doesn't seem to get it. He doesn't seem to know how to be sensitive to her need to feel loved and appreciated. He works just four days a week and spends at least one day a week golfing.

She's tried to make him understand, but he doesn't think anything is wrong except he doesn't get to golf as much as he likes, and she doesn't "put out" like she used to. I've tried to be a good listener to my sister, though we live thousands of miles apart.

Once her children were in school full−time, my sister went back to work. The hours she spends on the road (she's in sales) give her far too much time to think, and I'm afraid she's going to make a decision about her marriage and family without any help or reason.

I suggested she get a referral to a therapist. Although it would be great for the two of them to go together, there is no way he would go, and he would only lose respect for her if he knew she was going.

Would it be bad if I called her husband myself and got his take on the whole situation? The way my sister is talking, it sounds like she may just call it quits.

Karen

Karen, in the "The Monkey's Paw," a famous short story, a couple wishes for money and they get the exact sum they wanted. It is compensation for the death of their son, who is horribly mangled in a

factory accident. The moral of the story is clear: be careful what you wish for.

We absolutely understand your concern for your sister; however, there is no guarantee what you wish for will help. We often get letters from people who were pleased with the course of their marriage counseling. It became individual counseling and led to divorce and the beginning of a new life.

Therapy may only confirm your sister's feeling about starting a new life without her husband. If you call

your brother−in−law, he may feel secrets of his life and marriage have been shared without his knowledge or consent. You could be putting ideas into his head.

Your brother−in−law may view your sister's new job as shopping for a new husband, or he may complain about his meddling sister−in−law. Your brother−in−law may become angry, stubborn, or vengeful. He may drive a wedge between you and your sister.

Many of us want to correct everything which goes wrong in our quadrant of the universe, but it is simply beyond our power. You don't want your sister to get divorced, but that is beyond your power. What is within your power is to be there for your sister, as her sister, no matter what happens.

Wayne & Tamara

Method Of Approach

I want to divorce my wife of 10 years for many reasons. My main fear is how to handle such a terrible shock to my 3−year−old son. How do I handle telling him on the very day I tell my wife that I want a divorce?

Payne

Payne, it sounds as if your news will shock your wife. The question to ask is how to tell your wife in a way which minimizes harm to your son. The key to your son's reaction is how you, and your wife, handle the change in your relationship.

Wayne & Tamara

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