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a chance meeting, a powerful story



Crystal King

Odds are, in a different time, the paths of Jeff Dover and Crystal King might never have crossed.

Jeff, a personal injury attorney from the Atlanta area, and Crystal, a program manager and on-air announcer for Live 101.9 out of Bainbridge, GA (a small, rural town in the southwestern-most part of the state), really live and work in two different worlds.

But their paths did cross one night a few months back when Crystal stumbled across an ad on Facebook from the Dover Law Firm offering a free copy of its cancer awareness and misdiagnosis book; *I Have Cancer... Should It Have Been Caught Earlier?*

Crystal typically didn't pay too much attention to the ads that would show up on her screen on the popular social media site. But this ad was different. This ad hit home.

You see, less than two years earlier, Crystal had lost her youngest son, Tony, to pancreatic cancer that had reached its most advanced stage by the time it was discovered. He was just 30 years old at the time – a loving father to two young children and a devoted husband to his wife, Tara.

Like many people, Tony wasn't the type of person to

go to the doctor at the first sign that something was amiss. In fact, he never complained about the pain in his side that was bothering him and getting worse. Instead, he just kept on living life the way he always had – upbeat, carefree and positive.

Even when he stopped eating because he no longer had an appetite, those closest to him thought he was just having a bad day or was tired from being up at night caring for his little ones. No one knew that cancer was insidiously taking over his body.

When the pain in his side got so bad that he was doubled over, Tara finally convinced him that he had to go to the emergency room. The cancer was discovered shortly after that visit to the ER, and Tony was given just three to six months to live...a devastating blow for anyone, but especially to someone so young and with so much more to give.

Tony fought his cancer with determination, grace and the same "can-do" attitude that he always displayed. But in the end, the cancer had spread too far and become too entrenched, and Tony lost his battle with the disease on December 7, 2009, nearly two years after he was diagnosed.

Determined not to let her son's death be in vain, Crystal set about doing what she could to increase cancer awareness and help educate the public about the warning signs, risks and symptoms of cancer.

"I kept hearing about so many other people that had cancer...and so many people that had symptoms but

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the dangers OF CONSTRUCTION SITE FALLS



There is little debate that construction is one of the most dangerous industries in America. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 816 construction workers died on-site in 2009, and of all occupational fatalities that year, construction accounted for the most with over 230 more than the next closest industry.

Around a third of construction-related deaths are due to falls, such as:

- **Roof-related falls.** Falls resulting from working on a roof are one of the most common types of construction falls. Besides falling off of a roof, falling through skylights, through holes in a roof, or from a communication tower are all possible on a construction site.
- **Scaffolding falls.** During construction on a tall structure, temporary scaffolding is erected to support workers while they work. Scaffolding can be used at dangerous heights, and often faulty construction is to blame for fatal scaffolding falls.
- **Crane falls.** Though the crane's cabin may not be at the highest point of the machine, it is common for crane operators to fall great distances.
- **Elevator shaft falls.** Falling down an open elevator shaft can be fatal even if it's a short fall.
- **Falls through holes in flooring.** Fatal construction site falls can occur from unmarked holes or weak spots in the floor.

Approximately half of all fatal falls occur in the construction industry, and many of them are preventable. If you've lost a loved one as a result of a preventable fall on a construction site, contact an experienced construction injury attorney to discuss your legal options. ■

7 ways TO STEER CLEAR OF A CAR ACCIDENT

As personal injury attorneys who handle a number of serious accident claims during the course of any given year, we see firsthand the terrible toll that wrecks have on our community.

While no one can completely eliminate risk when they get behind the wheel, there are certain things that drivers can do to help reduce their risk of being involved in a serious car accident.

Here are 7 great tips for being safer on the road:

1. **Avoid driving at night.** Not only is it harder to see at night, but there also are other dangers such as more drunk drivers on the road.
2. **Scan ahead.** Sure, it makes sense to keep an eye on the vehicle that is directly in front of you, but if you can scan the road ahead of that vehicle as well, you may be able to avoid a problem if it develops.
3. **Watch out for damaged vehicles.** Check out the condition of cars around you. A car with lots of body damage could be an indicator of a possible inattentive driver.
4. **Keep your hands at the 9 and 3 o'clock positions of the steering wheel.** This allows for maximum control of the vehicle.
5. **Stay out of the far left lane.** Most highway accidents occur in the "fast lane", plus you have fewer options to avoid a wreck if one occurs while you're in the left lane.
6. **Watch your blind spots.** While it's important to use your side mirrors, don't rely solely on them. Turn your head to look into the lane next to you when changing lanes.
7. **Don't drive distracted.** Eating, talking/texting on a cell phone, applying makeup, reading, checking your GPS, having four or more people in a car, etc., can all be distractions that can cause an accident. ■

chose to ignore them that I had to do something. I had to make people pay attention,” she said. “I decided that if I could help prevent any other family from dealing with what we had to deal with, it would be worth it.”

Her first effort – just four months after Tony had passed away – was to develop a special concert in March of 2010 to raise money for cancer research and awareness. She lined up gospel musicians, distributed American Cancer Society information and laid the foundation for what would become an annual event. The first year’s proceeds went to a cancer patient, this year’s went to the Cancer Society and next year’s will go to HEAL, a facility in Atlanta that provides free medical treatment to anyone who is uninsured and can’t afford to pay for medical attention.

And it was that concert and the memory of her son that prompted Crystal to click on that Facebook ad from the Dover Law Firm in January of this year. She figured that the free cancer book she saw listed might be a huge help for families struggling with the disease.

Crystal requested the book, and after reading it, was even more convinced that the book would be a tremendous asset to anyone facing a cancer diagnosis. And then she took things one step further, reaching out directly to Jeff Dover and inquiring about whether he would make copies of the book available at the March concert.

Happy to help, Jeff had 100 copies of the books printed and shipped to Crystal to give out at the event. Just a week prior to the concert in March, Crystal also conducted an interview with Jeff on her Sunday night radio show, which you can hear at www.DoverLawFirm.com. Crystal and Jeff talked about cancer awareness and how Jeff’s book could make a difference in people’s lives.

Crystal received a lot of phone calls in the days after that Sunday night conversation. Calls from people who wanted to thank her for providing a resource like Jeff. Calls from people who previously might have been skeptical about lawyers, but who trusted Jeff immediately because he came across as genuine and sincere. Calls from people who were overwhelmingly positive about what they had heard that night.

But while she’s already impacted so many lives, there is still much work



Tony, shown with his family, touched many lives.

to be done for Crystal in raising the public’s awareness of cancer.

And life is keeping her busy, too.

Crystal is just one more semester away from receiving her bachelor’s degree in business management from Georgia Southwestern State University and recently started a new position with BAIN, an organization that helps people with disabilities learn to live more independently. She, of course, still has her Sunday night gig on Live 101.9 (you can hear Crystal

streamed live at www.sowegalive.com or at www.Conquerors4You.org, a site that has information about the annual concert and community health organizations as well.

In addition, she’s got a big family that she is very close to – three other children in addition to Tony, 12 grandchildren, two great grandchildren, one god-son, and as she put it, “a whole slew of other relatives.”

But there will always be a special place in her heart for Tony. “He was such a lively, fun person who never worried about anything,” Crystal said. “When he walked into a room, he’d immediately make you laugh.”

The Dover Law Firm would like to thank Crystal for the tireless work she is doing to raise awareness of cancer.

We also want to encourage anyone who reads this article to not ignore the central message:

Listen to what your body is telling you and go to the doctor if something doesn’t seem right or if you are exhibiting symptoms. Cancer is the most curable of all chronic diseases, and your chances for survival increase significantly if it is caught early.

If you would like a free copy of the cancer book discussed in this article, simply call our office or go to www.DoverLawFirm.com. ■

What Our Clients Are Saying

“Dover Law Firm did a wonderful job helping me with my case. Everyone was friendly and they kept me informed on all issues. I would use them again. Mrs. Sara Root was great. Thank you!”

– L. Grayson.

FAQ

If my child’s case goes to trial, will I have to bring her into Court?

Yes, there is a good chance that your child would need to appear in Court, but we would only ask that she appear for one day and it would only be for a short time. In some cases, your child would only need to be there a few minutes; in others, even if we had to ask her some questions, it would still be for just a short period of time. Either way, don’t let this deter you from asking about a potential case for your child. ■

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Crystal King lost her son to cancer when he was just 30. Now, she's on a mission.

See her powerful story on p. 1.

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reduce your risk of cancer

Despite the prevalence of cancer today (over 1.5 million people were diagnosed with the disease in 2010), there are ways that you can help reduce your risk, including:

- **Screening.** Following recommendations for early-detection screening in cervical and colorectal cancers can effectively reduce your risk of developing cancer. Since these cancers typically originate from pre-cancerous lesions, screening tests can catch the lesions prior to malignancy. In the cases of cervical, colorectal, breast cancers and other cancers, screening also can lead to the detection of the cancer at the earliest stages, when the disease is most easily treated.
- **Vaccinations.** Getting vaccinated for the human papilloma-virus (HPV) and hepatitis B can reduce one's risk of developing several different types of cancers.

- **Regular medical care.** Receiving regular medical care increases the likelihood that cancers be detected early.

Other ways of reducing your risk of cancer include staying physically active, avoiding tobacco, limiting your consumption of alcohol and limiting exposure to ultraviolet rays given off by the sun and tanning beds. Maintaining a healthy weight and a diet high in fruits and vegetables is a key as well. ■

The Dover Law Firm has written several reports available at no-charge to Georgia residents that outline the risks, symptoms and treatment options for several cancer types, including lung, breast, colorectal, and prostate cancer. To download your free copies, just go to www.DoverLawFirm.com.

Visit us at www.DoverLawFirm.com