

July 2015



## POINTS OF INTEREST

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE SPANGENBERG LAW FIRM.

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**ONE SMALL STEP...**

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Add these easy steps to your daily routine to help keep your little ones safe

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This newsletter is intended to provide information regarding this law firm, legal issues, and public events. It is not legal advice. Every case is unique. Do not rely on information in this newsletter to make decisions without consulting with an attorney. You may copy and distribute this newsletter only in its entirety.

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## TYPE 2 DIABETES MEDICATIONS INVOKANA AND INVOKAMET LINKED TO KIDNEY FAILURE AND KETOACIDOSIS

BY: PETER J. BRODHEAD, ESQ.



Invokana, along with other SGLT2 inhibitors, have been prescribed widely for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. However, information has come out that points to a link between these medicines and serious injuries, including: Invokana (canagliflozin), Invokamet (canagliflozin/metformin), Farxiga (dapagliflozin), Glyxambi (empagliflozin/linagliptin), Jardiance (empagliflozin) and Xigduo XR (dapagliflozin/metformin)

The FDA has warned that these drugs may cause kidney damage as well as ketoacidosis and has advised patients to seek immediate medical attention if they experience any symptoms of kidney failure or ketoacidosis, including:

- Difficulty breathing
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Confusion
- Unusual fatigue

#### THE PROBLEM WITH INVOKANA AND OTHER SGLT2 INHIBITORS

Most type 2 diabetes drugs either battle insulin resistance or inhibit the production of glucagon. SGLT2 inhibitors, by contrast, are specifically designed to excrete the blood sugars by blocking the reabsorption of glucose in the kidneys. They keep your

body from metabolizing sugar, an important energy source, and allow blood sugar entry to the kidneys, so that the blood sugar - instead of being metabolized - is excreted with high levels of urine sugars. When the insulin metabolism process fails, the body takes fat as an alternate fuel source and then produces toxic ketones as a by-product. The result is that your body has extra glucose but no ability to metabolize it or excrete the ketones that result. This can lead to kidney failure and ketoacidosis.

#### FAILURE TO WARN RESULTS IN SEVERE INJURIES

Manufacturers and those who marketed SGLT2 inhibitors, including Johnson & Johnson, Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc., AstraZeneca and Boehringer Ingelheim, failed to warn patients and physicians of the increased risks of kidney failure and ketoacidosis, effectively preventing patients from seeking safer alternative treatments.

If you or a loved one was diagnosed with ketoacidosis or kidney damage after being treated with Invokana, Invokamet, or another SGLT2 inhibitor and you would like to speak with an attorney about your rights and legal options, phone us at (877) 696-3303.

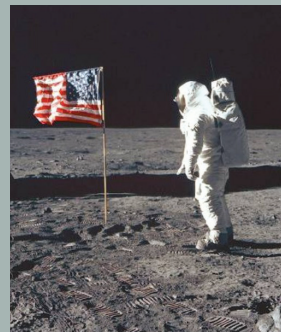
## CLEVELAND SUMMER FUN

10 Family-Friendly Activities You Won't Want To Miss

1. From summer reading programs to Robotics Camp, the Cuyahoga County Public Library offers something for everyone. [www.cpl.org](http://www.cpl.org).
2. Historic, eclectic Coventry Village in Cleveland Heights is hosting free concerts, movie nights and more throughout the summer. [www.coventryvillage.org](http://www.coventryvillage.org).
3. You won't want to miss the fun at the free Wade Oval Wednesday concerts, held on the Case Western Reserve University campus through August 26. [universitycircle.org/events/2015/06/wow-wade-oval-Wednesdays](http://universitycircle.org/events/2015/06/wow-wade-oval-Wednesdays).
4. The World's Largest Dinosaurs Exhibit comes to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History! [www.cmnh.org/visit/exhibits/dinosingle](http://www.cmnh.org/visit/exhibits/dinosingle).
5. Grab your lawn chair and head to Edgewater Park on the second Sunday of the month in July and August to watch a movie under the stars. [www.clevelandmetroparks.com/Main/Citizens-Bank-Cinema-at-Sunset](http://www.clevelandmetroparks.com/Main/Citizens-Bank-Cinema-at-Sunset).
6. Free walking tours of Cleveland's Gateway and Warehouse Districts, Playhouse Square, Canal Basin Park in the Flats and the Civic Center through September 16. [www.clevelandgatewaydistrict.com](http://www.clevelandgatewaydistrict.com).
7. Explore magical, interactive treehouses at The Cleveland Botanical Gardens' special exhibit, Treehouses, Nature Exploration & Adventure. [www.cbgarden.org/branch-out.aspx](http://www.cbgarden.org/branch-out.aspx).
8. Spend a fantastic day at Lake Metroparks Farmpark, a family-oriented science and cultural center devoted to agriculture and farming, Located in Kirtland. [www.lakemetroparks.com/parks/farmpark](http://www.lakemetroparks.com/parks/farmpark).
9. Visit Cleveland's historic Memphis Kiddie Amusement Park, offering fun for little ones since 1952. [www.memphiskiddiepark.com](http://www.memphiskiddiepark.com).
10. Check out the Great Lakes Science Center's celebration of "Beyond Rubik's Cube" with Summer Solve-It weekends through September 7. [www.greatscience.com/programs/summer-camps](http://www.greatscience.com/programs/summer-camps).



## ONE SMALL STEP



July 20th marks the 46th Anniversary of the historic walk on the Moon by astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin in 1969.

In honor of this historic day, we salute two other young Americans proudly taking their first steps this month: attorney Jeremy Tor's daughter, Ariella, who turned one on July 14th, and Information Technology Director Alex McLaughlin's son, Calvin, who will celebrate his first birthday on August 23rd.



Congratulations Ariella and Calvin!

## Save the Date: Ohio Back-to-School Tax Holiday August 7-9

Planning on doing some back-to-school shopping?



Ohio has enacted a one-time sales tax holiday this year, when the following are exempt from sales and use tax on August 7, 8, and 9:

- Items of clothing priced at \$75 or less;
- Individual school supplies priced at \$20 or less; and
- Individual school instructional materials priced at \$20 or less.

There is no limit on the amount of the total purchase. More info is available at [www.tax.ohio.gov/sales\\_and\\_use/salestaxholiday](http://www.tax.ohio.gov/sales_and_use/salestaxholiday).

## Preventing Heatstroke Injuries

### Look Before You Lock

Follow these tips as a part of your daily routine to ensure that little ones are not left in a hot car:



### Always keep your K-I-D-S in mind

- Keep Track** Place an item you will need at your destination - such as your phone or wallet - in the back seat next to your child's car seat.
- In Case of an Emergency** Call 911 if you see a child left alone in a vehicle. Act fast to save a life!
- Direct Your Attention** Keep a memento of your child, such as a stuffed animal, in your child's car seat. When you place your child in their car seat, move the memento to the front passenger seat as a visual reminder.
- Set a Reminder** Before you start your car, activate an alert on your phone for your expected time of arrival. When you hear the alarm you'll be reminded to check your back seat.

For more tips on ways to keep your children safe this summer, visit [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)

## SO-CALLED "FLUSHABLE WIPES:" AN UPDATE

BY: DANIEL FRECH

In April of 2014, the Spangenberg Law Firm sued national retailer Target and Nice-Pak, a manufacturer of non-woven fabrics, on behalf of individuals who had purchased Target Up+Up Brand Flushable Wipes, asserting that the wipes were not in fact "flushable" and instead caused damage to sewer and septic systems. That case remains pending, as do cases against a number of other manufacturers of so-called "flushable" wipes.

The cases all relate to essentially the same set of allegations - that those in the "flushable wipes" industry have known for some time that their products do not actually disperse after flushing and that they can cause significant damage to plumbing and sewer systems. Companies like Nice-Pak, which manufactures "flushable" wipes for Target and Costco, among others, have nonetheless continued to introduce these products into the market with packaging that affirmatively suggests that purchasers flush the products. But a recent Federal Trade Commission (FTC) order will hopefully change that.

On May 22, 2015, it was announced that Nice-Pak entered into a consent agreement with the FTC that states that Nice-Pak will not make any representation that the wipes are safe for sewer or septic systems, will not clog household plumbing systems, are safe to flush, or are flushable, unless the representation is non-misleading and Nice-Pak has and is relying on competent evidence to substantiate those representations.

If the consent order is finalized and Nice-Pak complies with the terms of the agreement, its flushable wipes

will either be significantly improved or moving off the shelves. Either way, it is a hopeful sign that the "flushable wipes" lawsuits currently pending across the country are helping to promote change in the industry and that the federal government is concerned with the safety and stability of our waste removal infrastructure.

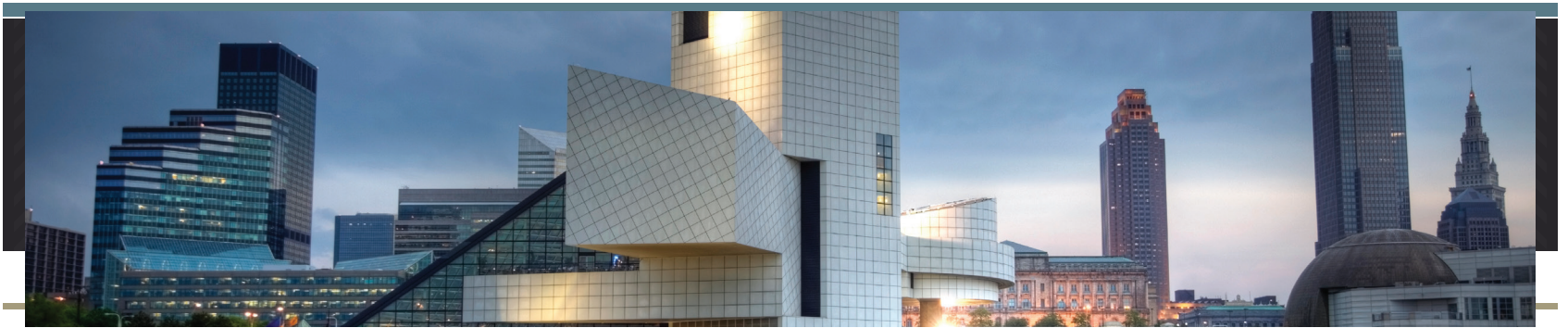
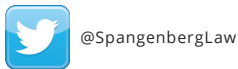
For now, it's probably still best not to flush any wipe - whether it says it's flushable or not. We still have not seen a product that we are sure is 100% sewer and septic safe. Maybe at some point that will change...but for now it's better safe than sorry.



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A referral from a client or friend is the greatest compliment our firm can receive. We are grateful for every one of these gestures and for the confidence you place in us by doing so. From all of us at Spangenberg Shibley & Liber, we express our sincere appreciation. Thank you!

## SPANGENBERG ATTORNEYS SUPPORT THE OHIO INNOCENCE PROJECT

Spangenberg Law Firm attorneys Nicholas DiCello and William Eadie recently attended a fundraiser for the new Northeast Ohio Board of Advocates for the Ohio Innocence Project. Ricky Jackson, who was exonerated and freed after 39 years of wrongful imprisonment in November 2014, spoke passionately about what it means to be free, to find his sense of forgiveness in prison and the importance of the work done by the Ohio Innocence Project.

Innocence Projects across the country have freed more than 250 wrongfully convicted inmates to date. The Ohio Innocence Project has helped 23 individuals obtain their long-sought freedom, including Mr. Jackson, who is the 18th exoneratee.

Mr. DiCello and Mr. Eadie, who handle civil rights and wrongful imprisonment cases, support and encourage



Jackson is the longest-serving person to be exonerated in U.S. history.

those efforts. Mr. Eadie recently argued a wrongful imprisonment case before the Ohio Supreme Court. (The recording is at [www.ohiochannel.org/MediaLibrary/Media.aspx](http://www.ohiochannel.org/MediaLibrary/Media.aspx).) To learn more about the Ohio Innocence Project and how you can donate, see [www.law.uc.edu/oip](http://www.law.uc.edu/oip).