



**GIBSONSINGLETON** PLLC  
— VIRGINIA INJURY ATTORNEYS —

# THE ROAD TO JUSTICE STARTS HERE

APRIL/MAY 2016



Welcome to our anniversary issue of “The Road to Justice Starts Here.” We appreciate our readers and your many kind comments about our newsletter over the past year.

Spring is a time for graduations and other beginnings. At GibsonSingleton, we’re thinking about new teen drivers, and how we can all help them drive more safely. We’re also getting questions about what you should do if you’re injured by a dog, so we’ll share the basics of that with you.

With Mother’s Day coming up on May 8, we want to take a moment to thank our mothers. We would like for you to meet them and enjoy some of our favorite recipes of theirs.

We want to honor our fathers too. For our June issue, we’ll share “the best advice my dad ever gave me,” and ask you to do the same. Please **email [beth@gibsonsingleton.com](mailto:beth@gibsonsingleton.com) by May 15 with your father’s best advice.** The top three chosen will receive a GibsonSingleton road safety kit for your car, a \$30 value. And everyone who enters will receive a free ice scraper so you’ll be ready for next winter.

All of us at GibsonSingleton wish you a happy spring!

John Singleton

Ken Gibson

**Would you like to receive this newsletter by mail or email?**  
Just email us at [info@gibsonsingleton.com](mailto:info@gibsonsingleton.com), or call  
(804) 413-6777 with your contact information.



**PG 2**

**How can you help teen drivers be safer on the road?**

**Did You Know: How did income tax get started in America?**

**PG 3**

**Meet our mothers, Joyce Gibson and Olivia Singleton**

**Favorite recipes of the GibsonSingleton moms**

**PG 4**

**Who’s responsible when a dog bites a person?**

# How can you help teen drivers be safer on the road?

By John Singleton



Auto crashes are the No. 1 cause of death among American teenagers. More than 2,100 teens were killed in 2013, and nearly 250,000 visited an emergency room, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The fatality rate for young men involved in wrecks was almost twice that of young women.

These statistics are deeply concerning to me, both as the father of teenaged boys, and as a personal injury attorney.

Factors that can increase a teenager's risk of being in serious wrecks include:

- Teens are more likely to speed than older drivers, and to not allow proper following distances.
- Teens often underestimate or don't recognize dangerous situations, partly because of their inexperience.
- Distracted driving (from using electronic devices) is more of a problem with young drivers than any other age group.
- Alcohol elevates the accident risk for everyone, but even more so for teens.
- Many teen drivers don't wear seatbelts consistently.

## How can parents and other adults help?

Many fatalities and injuries from wrecks with teenagers can be avoided. Here are some ways you can reduce your teen's risk:

1. **Set a good example.** The old adage is especially true for driving: "Young people may not always hear what you say, but they always remember what you do."
2. **Be a conscientious driving teacher** by exposing your teens to a wide variety of driving situations.
3. **Restrict your teens' nighttime driving**, particularly for the first six months.
4. **Emphasize that driving with a seat belt is always required.**
5. **Establish a zero-tolerance policy** for driving after drinking alcohol, and **serious consequences for distracted driving.** Limit the number of passengers to one or none until your teen driver gains more experience.

If you or a loved one has been injured in an auto accident and has any questions, contact GibsonSingleton at (804) 413-6777. Consultations are free. 



## Did You Know: How did income tax get started in America?

President Lincoln signed the first U.S. income tax into law in 1862 to help pay for the Civil War. The law levied a 3 percent tax on people with incomes between \$600 and \$10,000, and a 5 percent tax on people with incomes greater than \$10,000.

By 1867, public opposition to this income tax persuaded Congress to cut the tax rate. Interestingly, from 1868 to 1913 (when our current income tax system was signed into law), 90 percent of all government revenue came from taxes on liquor, beer, wine, and tobacco. 

### Important Dates

**APRIL 15**  
Tax Day

**APRIL 27**  
Administrative  
Professionals' Day

**APRIL 29**  
Arbor Day

**MAY 8**  
Mother's Day

**MAY 30**  
Memorial Day

# Meet our mothers, Joyce Gibson and Olivia Singleton

**Ken's mother, Joyce Gibson**, lives in Richmond. Joyce says one of her favorite childhood memories of "Kenneth" is how much he loved his Granddaddy Still (Joyce's father). Granddaddy Still was a sheriff in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, and was a symbol of integrity and leadership in that community.

Ken says he appreciates how his mom shows her love for her family. (He is the youngest of three boys.) He says his mom was always preparing delicious meals, making family occasions special, and cheering on her boys in whatever sport or other endeavor they undertook. Ken could always count on seeing his mom in the stands at his basketball games from the age of seven through 21.

**John's mother Olivia Singleton** lives in Charleston, West Virginia.



**Joyce Gibson holds the youngest of her three sons, Ken Gibson.**



**Ken Gibson, 2, enjoys a good book.**



**John Singleton and his mother, Olivia, at Parris Island in 1984, shortly after John had become a U.S. Marine.**



**John Singleton, 4, prepares a daffodil bouquet for his mother, Olivia – much to the dismay of his father, who had grown the flowers for the Singletons' yard.**

## Favorite recipes of the GibsonSingleton moms

Ken and John both say they are fortunate to have mothers who are true Southern cooks. In honor of Mother's Day, they have asked their moms to share some favorite recipes with you.

### Olivia Singleton's Potato Salad

- 6 russet potatoes, peeled and cooked
- 6 hard-boiled eggs, cooled and chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/2 cup chopped onions
- 1/4 – 1/2 cup Hellmanns mayonnaise
- 1/4 – 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 tablespoon spicy mustard
- Small jar of pimentos, drained
- 2 tablespoons chopped pickles, drained



1. Peel and cook the potatoes. Do not overcook – potatoes need to be firm enough to dice later. As potatoes are cooling, sprinkle vinegar over them. When cool, cut into small pieces.
2. Combine hard-boiled eggs, celery, and onions in large bowl. Set aside.
3. In small bowl, combine mayonnaise, sour cream, mustard, pimentos, and chopped pickles. How much mayonnaise and sour cream depends on your taste! For drier potato salad, use 1/4 cup each of mayonnaise and sour cream. For more sauce, use 1/2 cup of each.
4. Mix the cooled, cut potatoes in with the hard boiled eggs, celery, and onions in the large bowl. Add the mayonnaise and sour cream mixture to it.

Chill several hours or overnight before serving.

### Joyce Gibson's Chocolate Cream Pie

1. Make or buy a 9-inch pie shell with fluted edge, and bake according to directions.
2. Prepare filling: Mix in top of double boiler the following: 1 1/2 cups sugar, 3 squares unsweetened chocolate cut up, or 1/2 cup cocoa, 3 T cornstarch, and 1/2 tsp salt. Gradually stir in 3 cups very warm whole milk. (But do not boil milk). As mixture begins to thicken, stir constantly.
3. Gradually stir half of hot mixture into three egg yolks, slightly beaten. Then blend this mixture back into chocolate mixture and continue stirring until desired thickness. Blend in 1 T. Butter and 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla.
4. Pour immediately into baked pie shell. Top with meringue spread evenly on pie filling, sealing to edge of crust to prevent shrinking. **Bake at 400 degrees until delicately brown (about 6 to 8 minutes). Let cool at room temperature.**

**For Meringue:** Beat 3 egg whites with 1/4 tsp. cream of tartar until frothy. Gradually beat in 6 T sugar, a little at a time. Continue beating until stiff and glossy – beat until sugar is dissolved. Beat in 1/2 tsp. vanilla flavoring. Pile meringue onto hot pie filling. 





**GIBSON SINGLETON** PLLC  
— VIRGINIA INJURY ATTORNEYS —

P.O. Box 2346  
Gloucester, VA 23061  
(804) 413-6777  
www.gibsonsingleton.com



**INSIDE** Happy Spring! 🍀 How can you help teen drivers be safer on the road? 🍀 Did You Know: How did income tax get started in America? 🍀 Meet our mothers, Joyce Gibson and Olivia Singleton 🍀 Favorite recipes of the GibsonSingleton moms 🍀 Who's responsible when a dog bites a person?

How can you help teen drivers be safer on the road?

**PAGE TWO**



This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.



# Who's responsible when a dog bites a person?

By Ken Gibson

Approximately 4.5 million people are bitten by dogs each year, and more than 800,000 of those require medical attention, according to the CDC. Unfortunately, young children are often the victims of dog bites with injuries resulting to their head and face. Gloucester and Mathews residents

have had several injuries from dogs recently, according to the Gazette-Journal.

Beyond biting, dogs can cause other injuries. For example, a dog may jump on someone and knock him down, or cause a bike rider to fall off her bike, often leading to broken bones.

Owners may be held responsible under one of the following categories of law:

- 1. The "one-bite" law.** This law states that a dog owner is liable for injuries his dog causes if he had reason to know the dog might cause that type of injury. Some people think that means that every dog gets a "free bite," but that isn't necessarily true. While the first bite does put the owner "on notice" that his dog may be dangerous, the dog could also have growled threateningly, snapped, or jumped on someone in the past, which could also be considered a warning. At the same time, owners may not be held liable if the injured person provoked the dog or knowingly risked being injured by the dog.
- 2. Unreasonable carelessness.** If the owner shows negligence in controlling his dog, the owner will likely be held responsible. For example, if an aggressive dog was in his pen, but the gate was left unlatched and the dog escaped and injured someone, the owner could be considered liable.

Also important to know:

- 1. Most dog bites happen close to home.** A significant number of dog bite attacks happen near the victim's home or neighborhood. And understandably, most people do not want to "sue" a neighbor or a family member who may own a dangerous dog.
- 2. But what many people don't know is that most dog bite injuries are covered by a dog owner's or homeowner's insurance policy.** And serious dog bite injuries can result in significant medical expenses that can best be addressed by the dog owner's insurance policy.

If you or someone you know has been injured by a dog, contact an attorney at GibsonSingleton to protect your rights. 