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# THE DIEHL DIGEST

DIEHL LAW, LLC

**Volume XIX  
Issue 5**

*A note from Tom . . .*

**DIEHL LAW, LLC**

**Since 1988 located at:**

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**HOURS**  
Mon-Fri 8am - 5pm



Attorney Thomas J. Diehl

Dear Friends,

Have you ever let the proverbial cat out of the bag? Everyone knows what this means and have most likely done it at some point, but do you know where this phrase started? And why a cat? Why not a dog? Why a bag and not a box? See inside for a little background on this little phrase.

And...drumroll, please!!! It is that time of year again to remind you all of our annual "Hamburgers for Heroes" event on September 11! What better day than 9/11 to honor and treat our first responders?! We are so proud to once again host this event in collaboration with the Hamburger Wagon of Miamisburg! For the 6th year, we will feature delicious crunchy burgers from the renowned Hamburger Wagon right here in downtown Lebanon! It's a wonderful opportunity for us to come together and enjoy some great food all while raising thousands of dollars for the Lebanon Food Pantry. See the flyer inside for details!

Thank you for your continued trust and support. As always, if you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to reach out. Stay safe and take care!

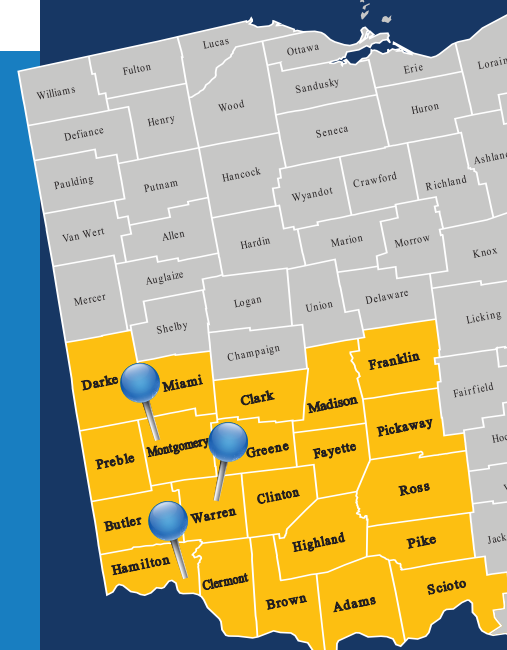
*Tom*



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**Injured? Learn what you should know before hiring an injury attorney in Tom's FREE book "7 BIG Mistakes to AVOID" so YOU don't sabotage your car accident case! Simply call our office or go to diehllaw.com and send us a chat. We will be happy to mail one out to you!**



**We also have additional locations to meet with clients including:**

30 Garfield Place  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

2121 Miamisburg-Centerville Rd.  
Dayton, OH 45459

**We will also come to you!**  
[diehllaw.com](http://diehllaw.com)

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### Raving Fan of the Month Five Star Google Review

"Tom was excellent throughout the entire legal process and was very easy to work with. I would recommend him to anyone looking for an attorney after an accident! Thank you Tom for all of your time and hard work!"

—Daniel E.

### WORDS: A LAWYER'S STOCK IN TRADE

#### "LETTING THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG"

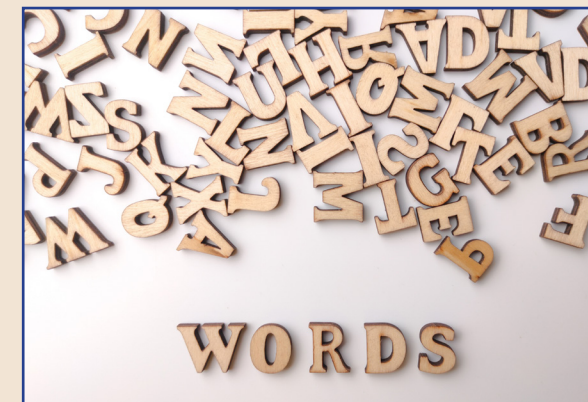
We've all let something slip that we shouldn't have. A surprise party, a secret plan, a piece of gossip — and when that happens, we say someone let the cat out of the bag. But why a cat? Why a bag? And what does any of it have to do with a secret?

Like many old expressions, this one has a murky past — but it likely began in the world of marketplace trickery.

In medieval Europe, markets were often loud, crowded, and chaotic — a perfect setting for clever (or shady) merchants. When farmers came to town to sell livestock, piglets were sometimes sold in tied sacks to be carried home. But a dishonest seller might try to pass off a much less valuable cat in place of a pig. If the buyer didn't inspect the bag on the spot, they'd find out the truth only later — sometimes quite literally when the cat was let out of the bag. Once the sack was opened, the deception was obvious — and the secret was out.

The phrase took on a figurative meaning by the 18th century. To "let the cat out of the bag" no longer implied fraud, but simply the act of revealing a hidden truth — often by accident.

Today, letting the cat out of the bag is a universally understood metaphor. Whether it's blowing a surprise or leaking sensitive information, the phrase captures that instant when what was hidden becomes suddenly — and irreversibly — known.



### FUNNIES & GAMES ...



Can you solve the examples?  
Find the solution for all equations

		-	4	=						
		-		+						
	+		=	6		+	8	=		
-		=		=		-				
2	7		+	7	=		7			
=		+		-		=				
	+		=	9		3	+		=	
-		=		=		+				
6		-	5	=		6	3			
=		+		-		=				
	+	2	=		4	+		=		
		=		=						
		-	7	=						

Answers:

		9	-	4	=	5				
		-		+						
4	+	2	=	6	2	+	8	=	10	
-		=		=		-				
2	7		+	7	=	8	7			
		+		-		=				
2	+	7	=	9		3	+	3	=	6
-		=		=		+				
6		10	-	5	=	5	6	3		
=		+		-		=				
1	+	2	=	3	4	+	5	=	9	
		=		=						
		8	-	7	=	1				

### What We've Been Up To

#### RECOVERY FOLLOWING CRASH FROM POLICE CHASE

What began as a police pursuit ended in a bad accident when the suspect lost control of his vehicle and collided with our client's who had the misfortune of being stopped at a nearby traffic light. He was significantly injured in the crash. While police quickly apprehended the fleeing suspect, our client was left to face the consequences of this traumatic event.

After the crash, our team was contacted to help navigate the complex legal and insurance issues that arose. In this case it was necessary to make a claim against the fleeing driver and to make an underinsured claim through our client's policy.

Police chases often complicate insurance claims, and it was critical that we acted swiftly to ensure our client wasn't unfairly burdened by the fallout from someone else's reckless actions. Our job was to fight for him and to make sure he was compensated for both his physical injuries and the emotional distress he endured. We are pleased that we were able to successfully complete this assignment.



**Recipe**

### Cheesy Taco Bake

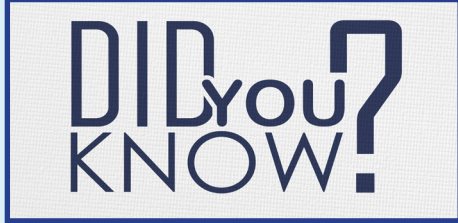
Serves 6-8

Between back-to-school schedules and football season kicking off, we're all looking for something quick, hearty, and guaranteed to please a crowd. This Cheesy Taco Bake—also known as Walking Taco Casserole—checks all the boxes. It's easy to throw together, kid-approved, and perfect for game day or a casual weeknight dinner.

- Ingredients:**
- 1 lb ground beef or ground turkey
  - 1 packet taco seasoning
  - 1 can (10 oz) Rotel (diced tomatoes with green chilies), drained
  - 1 can (15 oz) black beans, rinsed & drained
  - 2 cups shredded cheddar or Mexican blend cheese
  - 1 bag (9-10 oz) Fritos or tortilla chips
- Optional toppings:** sour cream, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, green onions, avocado, guacamole, jalapeños

Preheat oven to 350°F. In a large skillet, brown the meat over medium heat, then drain off the grease. Stir in taco seasoning, Rotel, and black beans. Let it simmer for about 5 minutes. In a 9x13 baking dish, layer half the chips, then the meat mixture, then half the cheese. Repeat the layers. Bake uncovered for 15-20 minutes, or until the cheese is melted and bubbly. Add your favorite toppings and serve it warm!

### SUING THE GOVERNMENT IN OHIO—WHETHER IT'S THE CITY, A POLICE DEPARTMENT, OR ANOTHER LOCAL AGENCY—CAN FEEL LIKE HITTING YOUR HEAD AGAINST A WALL.



Even in situations where someone's seriously injured and it's clear that a government employee made a mistake, the law often protects the government, not the victim.

Take a simple example: a police officer causes a car accident while on duty, and you end up hurt. It seems obvious that you should be able to receive compensation. But it's not that simple. Ohio law gives cities broad protection from lawsuits. This is called "immunity," and it means that, in many cases, the government doesn't have to pay—even when its employees are clearly at fault.

There is an exception, though. If a government employee causes a car accident while they're on the job, you might be able to prevail. But there is some fine print. If the accident was caused by a police officer responding to an "emergency call," then that little window of opportunity slams shut. Immunity comes back, and the city walks away without any responsibility.

What counts as an emergency? That's the frustrating part. Courts in Ohio have taken a very broad view. In one case, an officer was simply following suspected drug dealers—not chasing, just following—and the court said it was an emergency. Another officer was just patrolling a high-crime area. That, too, counted as an emergency. Even transporting a prisoner was considered enough to trigger immunity. So basically, anything that can be spun as part of the officer's duties might qualify, even if it's not dangerous or urgent.

In a case handled, a woman was walking through a town hall parking lot when a police officer hit her with his car. The officer was on his way to court to testify in a speeding ticket case. The city argued that this counted as an emergency and tried to claim immunity. Fortunately, the appeals court didn't buy it and ruled in our favor. But based on past court decisions, that outcome was far from certain. The truth is, while the law technically allows people to sue the government under specific circumstances, those circumstances are narrow—and the exceptions so broad—that these cases are difficult and fraught with landmines.

So yes, you can sue the city—but only in theory. In practice, it's a lot like a "pleasant root canal": technically possible, but don't count on it being easy or satisfying.

