



# LAW TIPS

One of the pleasures of practicing law is helping people resolve legal questions they come face to face with in their lives. Some of these situations are pleasant – such as selling your house for a profit or buying your dream house – while others cause various levels of anxiety – such as when someone owes you money or when you have been charged with a crime. We hope these law tips will entertain as well as enlighten you. **PLEASE REMEMBER** these are only tips and no legal decision should be made without first obtaining advice specific to your particular situation.

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## *MOVING?*

Are you moving? As the truck pulls away with your life's possessions, will you worry? Will you wonder what'll happen if it crashes? If it catches on fire? If it just disappears and never shows up?

Ancient Egypt didn't have these problems. When Pharaoh started moving limestone blocks to build his pyramid, he didn't worry if something went missing. There were no prisons back then, or parole officers, or crafty lawyers dreaming up excuses when something disappeared. If something got lost, there was one punishment - death. This tended to get everyone's attention. Of course, limestone blocks are harder to lose than your sofa. And most trucks do show up. It's what they unload that cause movers heartache.

The problem usually occurs when the dishes are unloaded. Your favorite wedding present, an 85-year-old set of Spode china from Aunt Minnie, lies crumbled in the bottom of a box like pavement in springtime. Crushed dishes are difficult to piece together. And if Aunt Minnie is still alive, she is probably looking forward to dinner at your new house, which she expects to be served on her special gift to you. So how do you avoid broken dishes, and all the other problems that come with a bad move?

Your first line of defense is to use a reputable company. Check them out carefully. Get references and call. Your second line of defense is to watch them pack. They don't hire watch engravers to load your belongings. You wouldn't believe how many of them will simply lay dishes on top of one another. (Then, when they drop the box, you get broken pavement.) Your third line of defense is good insurance. But ask questions of the insurance agent. What does the insurance company do if this happens? If that happens? Finally, and most importantly, anything of real value shouldn't go in the truck. Take it with you.

If you follow the rules, you won't need a lawyer. If you do, though, get one early. Get one who will first try to solve your problem without filing lawsuits. Think of us. We can help you.

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