



# Your Best Life

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SEPTEMBER 2018

## Football Time in Tennessee

### Tackle Problems, Block Fears

I will never forget my time as a Waverly Tiger back in high school. All of the hard work, the teamwork, the hardship, and the pride came together under those Friday night lights. You have on all of your gear, walking towards the field from the clubhouse, seeing the lights and hearing the band playing. The band's drums are beating only slightly louder than your heart in your throat. Your mouth is dry and your ears are burning. The anticipation is incredible. Your work, your reputation, your dedication, and your passion, are all on the line.

On the field in high school, and throughout my college football days as a Vanderbilt Commodore, I was fighting for myself, my school, and for love of the sport. As I think about my career as a lawyer in the court room for my clients, it is eerily similar to those Friday nights and Saturday afternoons. The excitement and the nervousness are there. The main difference in court now is... THIS IS REAL. Real life. Real people. Real tragedy, death, permanent change of life events that have taken place to rock your world. The stakes now are much higher than just a win-loss record. Now I fight for good folks like YOU, for worthy people who have had part of their health and lives snatched away from them without permission... All because of carelessness, recklessness, or simply greed on trying to take a safety shortcut to save money. My people have been treated unfairly and had promises broken, and now they are hurting. The insurance companies don't give a rip about you and they are fine to delay and starve you out.

I know for certain that a lawyer's ability to do well in the courtroom can give your case a huge advantage over the amount you settle for, or obtain through a jury verdict. I have seen poor lawyer-ing destroy good cases. Justice was not served. Most lawyers would rather settle your case because they are too afraid to step in front of a jury.

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# Football Time

Continued...

Great verdicts don't just happen by chance. I spend a vast majority of my "down time" studying how to improve my courtroom performance. Our firm regularly tries cases when it is the right thing to do for our clients. To me, your loss is **MY LOSS**. When I get to know you, I cannot help but become personally vested in your loss. I won't sleep until we get justice for your family.

"Protecting Your Family" is more than just our firm motto; it is what we do every day. To all my clients/friends out there who trust my firm to handle YOUR important case, I sincerely say "Thank You."



Williamson Co. Flag Football Champs again!  
6 years in a row.



## RAVING FAN: OF SEPTEMBER

Karen Embry

*Thank you for trusting  
us with your case and  
for sharing your story  
with us!*



I was stopped on the interstate for traffic when the tractor trailer behind me came barreling down the road, not stopping, and hit me at 50 mph. The damage was devastating and I am lucky to be alive. I was taken to the ER and had 5 fractured ribs that would not heal and other internal injuries. My medical bills were well over \$100,000 alone. I found John Griffith through a family lawyer friend referral who said he was the man to handle this type of case. John was there all the way for me! He kept in touch with me just to see how I was feeling and made sure there was nothing I needed. I would highly recommend John to anyone who needs an Honest, Professional, Caring attorney. I have complete faith in their professionalism and knowledge of injury law. I cannot say enough good things about how my case was handled. John Griffith is the best attorney by far!"

-- Karen Embry (Nashville, TN)

To share your story, email  
[Sydney@Griffithinjurylaw.com](mailto:Sydney@Griffithinjurylaw.com)





# Dog Bite Attack

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Week after week I hear horror stories from parents of dog bit children who say the dog owner told them, "Well, he had never bitten anyone before!" As a general rule, I don't let my children go near dogs of certain breeds. Period. Many will say that is overkill, but heck, they are my kids, and I am responsible for their well-being. You cannot "undo" a dog bite attack after it happens.

After a vicious dog bite attack, you need answers to protect yourself and your family. Tennessee Law previously allowed dog owners to have a "first bite free" rule, which required a victim to prove that the owner knew that the dog had a "dangerous propensity" to hurt someone, or had bitten someone before. his rule was unfair to the victims who had never had any reason to be around the dog before and therefore have no idea how vicious the dog might be. Owners would often lie about their dog's dangerous propensities. **This is no longer the law in Tennessee.**

### THE NEW RULE

Tennessee's newer law requires a dog owner to :

1. **Keep their dog under reasonable control, and**
2. **keep their dog from running at large.**

If the dog owner violates either of these duties, he is "subject to civil liability for any damages suffered by a person who is injured by the dog while in a public place or lawfully in or on the private property of another."

### Exceptions to the Rule

There are some huge exceptions to this rule, which includes:

- The Law does not apply to military or police dogs;
- If you provoke the dog, you will not recover for the harm from the resulting attack;
- If the attack occurs on the dog owner's farm, home, driveway or other noncommercial property owned, rented or leased by the dog owner, or occupied by the dog owner with his permission, unless you prove that the owner knew or should have known of the dog's dangerous propensities.
- If the dog is confined in an enclosure and contained, the owner will not be liable for any injuries.

Included in the above is an important "residential exception" which does not hold a dog owner liable to a person that is upon the residence or farm property of the dog owner, unless you can prove that the dog owner knew of the dog's dangerous propensities. This situation requires you to prove, as the prior rule of law required, that the owner knew his dog was vicious and prone to be aggressive and/or attack. Tennessee is the only State in our nation which contains this residential exception. Since well over half of the dog bite injuries occur on the premises of the owner, this is an important distinction.

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## Buffalo Chicken Dip

### Touchdown Snack!

#### Ingredients:

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup cooked chicken breast
- 1/2 cup Buffalo wing sauce
- 1/2 cup ran or blue cheese salad dressing
- 2 cups shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese

#### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350. Spread cream cheese into an ungreased shallow 1-qt. baking dish. Layer with chicken, wing sauce and salad dressing. Sprinkle with cheese.
- Bake, uncovered, 20-25 minutes or until cheese is melted.
- Serve with baguette slices, celery, or tortilla chips.



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## Share Your Story

We love hearing from our clients and want your referrals and reviews.

To be featured in an upcoming newsletter, email [Sydney@GriffithInjuryLaw.com](mailto:Sydney@GriffithInjuryLaw.com)

WE ❤️ OUR CLIENTS! WE WANT YOUR REVIEWS!

## TN DOG BITE LAW 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

[continued]

Be very careful if you are on the property of a dog owner of any dog you do not know. Ask the owner if the dog has ever bitten anyone before. Children are especially vulnerable to attack and oftentimes suffer the most horrific injuries from dog bites.

You need to have appropriate coverage for this type of scenario with your own homeowner's insurance. Call your agent and ask if you have the correct type of coverage that will cover you if someone else's dog bites you and does not have any, else's dog bites you and does not have any, or enough, insurance coverage. Also, you only have one year (unless you are a minor) to file your claim. After that, you are out of luck.

Time is your enemy in cases like this. Witnesses' memories fade... Evidence disappears. If you or your child has been bitten, call me today.