

# NEWSLETTER

HOFHEIMER | FERREBEE P.C.

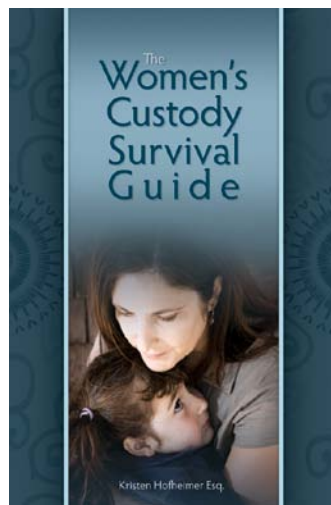
REPRESENTING ONLY WOMEN IN DIVORCE

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This Newsletter is published by Hofheimer/Ferrebee, P.C. It is for informational purposes only and no legal advice is intended.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Attention Home Buyers	2
Recent Divorce Articles from our Blog	2
Upcoming Events	3
Support Me In The Manner To Which I've Become Accustomed	3
Name This Newsletter Contest	4



## KRISTEN HOFHEIMER'S CUSTODY BOOK TOPS THE "BEST SELLER" LIST

Yes, Kristen Hofheimer's book, *The Women's Custody Survival Guide*, tops the Hofheimer/Ferrebee "bestseller" list this month. If you want to know how Virginia courts decide custody and visitation look at chapter two to find the answers. If you want to know what to wear in court or what to expect while in the courtroom check out chapter six. Chapter seven will help you find out how to communicate with your attorney and/or Guardian Ad Litem.

If custody of your children is an issue, you need to order Kristen's book. You may order online at [www.TheCustodyBook.com](http://www.TheCustodyBook.com) or call our office today, 757-425-5200.

## THREE HOFHEIMER/FERREBEE ATTORNEYS MAKE THE 2009 VIRGINIA SUPER LAWYERS LIST

Charlie Hofheimer is recognized for his outstanding work in his practice of law by being included in the 2009 Virginia Super Lawyers List. In addition, Sheera Herrell and Kristen Hofheimer are members of the 2009 Virginia Super Lawyers List as Rising Stars. This is a special designation for attorneys under the age of forty with ten years or less experience who have distinguished themselves in their area of practice.

The Super Lawyers and Rising Stars selection process includes peer nomination, a blue ribbon panel review, as well as independent research on each individual candidate.

Upon acknowledging the designation, Charlie remarked that all awards are but a reflection of the efforts of the wonderful people who make up Hofheimer/Ferrebee. Fellow attorneys Jeff Tarkington, Mary Elizabeth Davis and Shannon Lemm have contributed greatly to the firm's reputation for quality work and top-notch courtroom representation.

Our superlative staff includes super achievers who, while flying under the radar, make things happen for clients and attorneys alike. These super achievers include Darlene "energizer bunny" Muench who keeps

the fast pace front office moving and "our brain trust" of incredible paralegals, Tammy Womack, Kathleen McClelland, Lawana Loar, and Kimberly Baker. Each one of them combines empathy and compassion with first class service to every client.

Our super lawyers, rising stars, energizer bunny, and brain trusts cannot operate without our great leadership and top level support from the behind the scenes office managers.

The management team is led by award winning Legal Administrator (2008-2009 award for Excellence

from the Association of Legal Administrators), Rob Sadler. The other members of the team are Dorothy Moore, Director of Finance, and Mary Jaquith and Priscilla McClelland who keep the law practice moving in the right direction. Adding to the talents of the management team is Second Saturday Program Director, Lisa Metcalfe.

Charlie is proud to be included as a member of the 2009 Virginia Super Lawyer List. However, he is prouder of the excellent team of reliable people who serve the Hofheimer/Ferrebee family of clients.

# ATTENTION HOME BUYERS!

Congratulations! Buying a home is a wonderful and exciting experience but it can also be overwhelming. Home inspections, earnest money, title companies... you get the picture. But once the sale has closed and you've spent sometime in your new home, you realize it was all worth it.

Now, as a homeowner, you have a very important asset to protect. Here are some things every new homeowner should consider.

1. **Review your estate plan.** Now that you are a homeowner, if something happens to you, it is critical to have planning in place to protect your newest asset.

2. **If you have minor children, make sure you have named guardians - both for the long-term and short-term.** Ensure that there is never a gap in care for your children in the event something happens to you. Go to [www.kidsprotectionplan.com](http://www.kidsprotectionplan.com) for a quick and easy way to name guardians for your children.

3. **Review your health care directives.** Every human being over the age of 18 needs written medical directives in the event you are incapacitated and can not make your own decisions. Failure to have the right documents in place may lead to confusion and frustration during an emergency.

4. **Review your disability insurance.** Statistics show it is more likely that you will be disabled rather than die prematurely. Make sure that in the event you become disabled there is enough money to pay your mortgage and other bills.

5. **Review your life insurance.** Being properly insured is vitally important to the loved ones you leave behind. Make sure your loved ones never have to worry about whether there is enough money to pay the bills after you are gone.



By Sheera R. Herrell



## RECENT DIVORCE ARTICLES FROM OUR BLOG

### 15 truths you must know to complete your successful divorce

1. Nobody will look out for you like you will. The best attorney in the world cannot know or care as much about your outcome as you do, so partner with your attorney, set achievable goals and keep communicating.
2. Do not make your children your confidantes during your divorce – children should be allowed to remain children, no matter how you feel or what you think. Protect and love them like only a mother can.
3. Divorce is about outcome, not fault. See the big picture.
4. Custody is about CHILDREN, not fault. Use the term “co-parenting”, not “custody” or “visitation when speaking with your husband

Read Entire Article at: [www.VirginiaDivorceAnswers.com/article1](http://www.VirginiaDivorceAnswers.com/article1)

### 10 Important Truths for Women confronting Divorce

As we get started, I want to share ten of 25 basic truths about divorce that I have learned while helping women get divorced. The remaining 15 will be discussed in my next blog on 6/16/09.

1. Look out for yourself first! If you're okay, your kids will be okay. Just like on the airplane, you need to give yourself oxygen so you will be able to give it to them.
2. Never ever ever let him know you fear going to court. Embrace the court, it can be your best friend.
3. Turn his voice off in your head. He is no longer the authoritative figure in your life: you are.

Read Entire Article at: [www.VirginiaDivorceAnswers.com/article2](http://www.VirginiaDivorceAnswers.com/article2)

More on page 4

# SUPPORT ME IN THE MANNER TO WHICH I'VE BECOME ACCUSTOMED

By Jeffrey Tarkington

Does he REALLY have to support you in the “manner to which you’ve become accustomed?” In Virginia, the Courts are instructed to consider 12 specific factors in awarding permanent spousal support, including “the standard of living established during the marriage.” The factors, in no order of importance are:

1. The needs, obligations and financial resources of both parties (generally presumed the most important factor)
2. The Standard of living
3. The duration of the marriage (generally relates more to duration of support obligation)
4. The age, physical and mental health of the parties, including any special circumstances of family (particularly as same may effect the employability of a party)
5. Whether the age, physical or mental health of a child of the parties requires that one parent not work outside the home
6. Each party’s contributions, monetary and non-monetary, to the well being of the family (where fault in the breakdown of the martial relationship is considered a “negative non-monetary contribution”)
7. The separate property interests of the parties (and the income generation potential for the separate property)
8. The distribution of marital assets and debts in final order of divorce (again considering the income potential of the assets and the debt service costs, if any)
9. The earning capacity, including skills, education and training of the parties & the jobs available in the community for persons possessing those skills,
10. The opportunity, time and costs for a party to obtain new skills to enhance earning capacity
11. The decisions made during marriage regarding employment, parenting, education etc., and the effects of same on present and future earning ability, and
12. Whether either party has contributed to the education, training, career or profession of the other.

Fault (yours) may be an absolute bar to spousal support, or (his) an enhancement factor. In my practice, the “standard of living” factor comes into play primarily when there is surplus income to the payor spouse for a long term marriage (20+ yrs).

Absent some special circumstance, do not count on spousal support as your primary income source!

## A Valuable Divorce Seminar offered to Virginia Women



3 Locations ~ For more information call (757) 456.1574 or visit [MonthlyDivorceSeminars.com](http://MonthlyDivorceSeminars.com)

Presented by Divorce Attorneys and Mental Health Professionals, this monthly presentation gives Virginia women the Divorce information they need.

Also known as “Second Saturday,” this seminar gives Virginia women valuable information about divorce, spousal support and child custody.

### Second Saturday Seminars

#### VIRGINIA BEACH

August 8, 2009 • September 12, 2009 • October 10, 2009

#### CHESAPEAKE

August 8, 2009 • September 12, 2009 • October 10, 2009

#### NEWPORT NEWS

August 8, 2009 • September 12, 2009 • October 10, 2009

### Third Tuesday Seminars

#### VIRGINIA BEACH

August 18, 2009 • September 15, 2009 • October 20, 2009

## GRACE IS DOING MUCH BETTER!

By Mary Elizabeth Davis

Thanks for all the good wishes!

Grace came to live with me in the summer of 2002, when she was only a few months old. Gracie has a beautiful Pekingese face and coat, and the “little lion” personality of a Peke. Weighing all of six pounds, she is spunky, funny, and very friendly. After her first bath, she pulled my hairdryer, which was bigger than her, into the pile of “her” toys. When we walk in the neighborhood, she insists on greeting everyone. (We call her the Mayor of the neighborhood). She is a great traveler, and



she makes friends wherever we go.

When we were dating, my husband jokingly asked if he could visit Grace if we ever broke up. I said, no! He proposed shortly thereafter.

Grace gave us all quite a scare last year. She had been misdiagnosed by a specialist, but a

*Continued on page 4*

Continued from page 3

## GRACE IS DOING MUCH BETTER!

referral from her primary vet sent us to NCSU Veterinary Hospital for the correct diagnosis of laryngeal collapse. Her first surgeries were not enough, and we almost lost her. Gracie was given a permanent tracheostomy, so she now breathes through an opening in her neck. Learning to care for a special needs pet has been a challenge, and I am eternally grateful for the wonderful care she has gotten from NCSU and from her primary vet at Beach Pet Hospital.

I am also eternally grateful for all the well wishes and prayers from our clients at Hofheimer/Ferrebee. Thank you so much for all the emails and calls to check up on her. Grace moves a little more slowly now, but she still has the same sweet and loving personality.

Continued from page 2

## RECENT DIVORCE ARTICLES FROM OUR BLOG

### Divorce Teams active in Virginia Beach Va according to Virginia Divorce Attorney, Charlie Hofheimer

Who is on your divorce team and why are they there ? "Team" ?" Who said anything about a divorce team ?" you ask.

Yep, You have a divorce team whether you like it or not. The real question is whether they are helping you or hurting you. No question they think they are helping you and you probably think so too. After all, your mom would do nothing to hurt you and neither would your best two friend's in the whole world, Suzy Q and Sissy. But Mom, Suzy Q and Sissy are not experts about divorce or custody and Sissy and Suzy Q will protect your actions, sometimes even when you are wrong. So, while your team may be very loyal and very caring--They may be steering you or supporting you in the wrong way.

Read Entire Article at: [www.VirginiaDivorceAnswers.com/article3](http://www.VirginiaDivorceAnswers.com/article3)

CONTEST • CONTEST • CONTEST • CONTEST • CONTEST • CONTEST • CONTEST • CONTEST • CONTEST

# NAME THIS NEWSLETTER AND WIN \$50 VISA GIFT CARD!

Entries should be submitted no later than August 15th either by calling our office 425-5200 or email [office@hoflaw.com](mailto:office@hoflaw.com)



HOFHEIMER | FERREBEE P.C.

Hofheimer/Ferrebee P.C.  
1060 Laskin Road Suite 12B  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Phone: (757) 425-5200  
Fax: (757) 425-6100

Visit us on the Web [Virginiadivorceattorney.com](http://Virginiadivorceattorney.com) • [Monthlydivorceseminar.com](http://Monthlydivorceseminar.com) • [Virginiacollaborativelaw.com](http://Virginiacollaborativelaw.com) • [Freedivorcebook.com](http://Freedivorcebook.com)