



Boston Law Group, LLC

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## Things To Do For January

Now-Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>: Zoolights at the National Zoo

3<sup>rd</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>: Broadway in Baltimore: Wicked

9<sup>th</sup> - March 19<sup>th</sup>: Rock of Ages opens at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia, Maryland

19<sup>th</sup> - Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>: Howard County Restaurant & Craft Beverage Weeks

19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>: DC Restaurant Week

20<sup>th</sup>: MLK Day/ Day of Service

23<sup>rd</sup> - Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>: The Washington, DC Auto Show



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# When The Nurse Must Step In During Labor

by: Marcus B. Boston, Esq.

**A mother's question about a nurse's authority during a tense delivery highlights a crucial, yet often misunderstood aspect of maternity care. Many families wonder if a labor and delivery nurse must simply follow a doctor's lead, even when concerns arise. The reality is that a nurse carries an independent professional duty to protect the health of both the mother and the baby.**

## **The Nurse's Independent Duty**

**A labor and delivery nurse is a licensed professional, not just a doctor's assistant. In the eyes of the law and medical standards, they are held accountable for the care they provide. This means they have a clear responsibility to question plans and to speak up if they believe a situation is becoming unsafe. They are not shielded from liability by the fact that a doctor was in charge. This professional obligation forms the foundation for understanding when the nurse must step in during labor.**

## **The Real Policy of the Chain of Command**

**Hospitals are not naive to disagreements or the high-stakes nature of labor. For this reason, most have a formal "chain of command" policy. This is not a theoretical idea but a written procedure a nurse must follow. If a nurse identifies a concerning fetal heart rate pattern, like one deteriorating from Category 2 towards Category 3, and the attending doctor does not share their concern, the nurse has a duty to escalate. They can call the charge nurse, the nursing supervisor, or even another physician. This process exists to prevent a dangerous drift in care.**

## **When The Nurse Must Step In During Labor**

**Escalating a concern can be uncomfortable, as no one wants to challenge a colleague. However, when the potential outcome is a severe birth injury like hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy (HIE), the duty to the patient must outweigh workplace discomfort. In reviewing birth injury cases, it is often evident where a nurse noted troubling signs but did not activate the chain of command. This failure is when families are left with painful questions. Thankfully, most deliveries involve seamless teamwork. But the high stakes mean everyone must be prepared for the moment when the nurse must step in during labor.**



# *Boston Law Group*

## T U R N S 1 5

On November 1, 2025 we celebrated the anniversary of us opening our doors for business. Please join us in making year 15 our best one yet!



## **FINANCIAL WELLNESS TIPS**

Start your New Year planning for financial security. We know that everyone's financial situation varies, but here are a few tips to get you thinking long term.

1. Update banking information. Do you have someone authorized as a user on your account and is your pay on death beneficiary's information current?
2. Savings and Investments: Based on your age and current employment, are your accounts where you would like them to be? Are there contingencies in place in case you are injured and unable to return to work or will be out of work for a while? Are your investments diverse?
3. Deal with the debt! Start budgeting to rid yourself from debt, if you have any. Stay on top of your monthly expenses and your monthly income and other finances received.
4. Have you checked your life insurance? Make sure any beneficiary information is current.
5. Although it is great to plan and prepare for the long run, remember you still need to live for today. Don't let the stress and strain of finances prevent you from living your best life (or best life under your specific circumstances). You only get one life and tomorrow is not guaranteed.

# Traditional Hoppin' John

A Southern traditional meal to welcome in prosperity and fortune.



## Ingredients

- 6 thick-cut bacon slices, chopped
  - 4 celery stalks, sliced
  - 1 medium-size yellow onion, chopped
  - 1 small green bell pepper, finely chopped
  - 3 garlic cloves, chopped
  - 1 tsp. thyme
  - 1/2 tsp. black pepper
  - 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
  - 1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt, divided
  - 6 cups lower-sodium chicken broth
  - 4 cups fresh or frozen black-eyed peas
  - 2 Tbsp. olive oil
  - 1 1/2 cups uncooked Carolina Gold rice
- \*be sure to omit anything you don't like or cannot eat*

## Directions

1. Cook bacon in a Dutch oven over medium-high, stirring occasionally, until starting to crisp, about 10 minutes.
2. Add celery, onion, bell pepper, garlic, thyme, black pepper, cayenne, and 1 teaspoon of the salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, until onion is tender, about 8 minutes.
3. Add broth and blackeyed peas, and bring to a boil over medium-high. Reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer until peas are tender, about 40 minutes.
4. Prepare your rice according to package instructions.
5. Serve Hoppin' John over rice

## BOSTON LAW GROUP, LLC

### **Disclaimer:**

***This publication is not intended to provide any legal, nor medical advice, nor does it create an attorney-client relationship. Each and every case is different. To consult the attorneys of Boston Law Group, LLC regarding a birth injury case, please call 301-850-4832.***

***Communication Policy: The attorneys of Boston Law Group, LLC generally do not accept unscheduled phone calls. This allows us to focus our time and attention on individual cases, which creates greater quality legal service. To schedule an appointment, please email: [info@bostonlawllc.com](mailto:info@bostonlawllc.com).***

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