

The BOYK BULLETIN



CHARLES E. BOYK
LAW OFFICES, LLC

11 Offices >>> NW Ohio & SE Michigan

LAWSUIT: Wood County Fair Board Negligence Led to Abuse of Local Minor by Indicted Former President

BOWLING GREEN, OH – A major civil lawsuit has been filed in the Wood County Common Pleas Court against the Wood County Agricultural Society, the Wood County Fair Foundation, and former Fair Board President Brock E. Abke. The complaint, filed on behalf of a local minor and his family, alleges that the Fair Board’s negligence allowed Abke to use his position of authority to groom and abuse a 17-year-old boy.

to inappropriate conduct with minors. Despite this, the lawsuit claims the board allowed Abke to remain in direct contact with junior 4H clubs and even lead youth camping events.

The plaintiffs allege that from May 2023 to May 2025, Abke used his status to groom the minor, purchasing him vapes and alcohol, sending him money, and sharing over 40 sexually explicit photos via Snapchat.

Abke’s history with the Wood County Fair is extensive; he served as a board member starting in 2015, held the office of president from 2017 to 2018, and was the board’s secretary as recently as 2025.

“Families put their trust in the Fair Board that their children are safe when participating in wholesome 4-H activities,” says Attorney Chuck Boyk. “The Wood County Fair Board has failed in its fiduciary responsibility and betrayed that trust.”



Currently, Abke remains under strict house arrest with GPS monitoring. A judge recently denied his request for bond modification after representatives for the alleged victims appeared in court to state they were “absolutely opposed” to any loosening of his restrictions.

The family, whose identities are being protected due to the sensitive nature of the case, is seeking in excess of \$25,000 and punitive damages to address the severe psychological damage and emotional distress reportedly suffered by the minor. The case was assigned to Wood County Common Pleas Judge Mary “Molly” L. Mack.

The civil filing follows a 13-count criminal indictment against the 31-year-old Perrysburg man. The criminal charges include:

- *Five second-degree felony counts of pandering obscenity involving a minor.*
- *Five fourth-degree felony counts of pandering obscenity involving a minor.*
- *One fifth-degree felony count of importuning for allegedly soliciting sex from a 15-year-old.*
- *Two counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor.*

The civil complaint argues that the Wood County Fair Board knew or should have known that Abke was “dangerous and outrageous” and had previously lost regular employment due

CONTACT US TODAY!

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AUTO ACCIDENTS • MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
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Boyk Law's March Small Businesses Spotlight: Maumee



Charles Boyk Law Offices loves Maumee! This month, we are spotlighting four of Maumee's small businesses and giving away \$50 gift cards on our social media channels. Log on and follow the directions to enter the giveaway.

In Bloom Flowers and Gifts is a full-service florist and gift shop located at 126 W. Wayne Street in Maumee. Kendra Bills and her daughter Emily, are the co-owners and designers. The "In Bloom Gals" love to create beautiful floral designs for weddings, sympathy, or simply everyday enjoyment.

Their shop features a carefully curated selection of plants, greeting cards, jewelry, seasonal decor and a few items from local artists. Their selection of gifts is ever-changing, so you never know what treasures you will find at In Bloom. Their store dog, Maisy Grace,

loves to meet and greet new customers and help them choose amazing gifts.

Store hours are Monday – Friday: 9 AM – 5 PM. You can contact them at 419.794.3000 or newinbloom.com/

Maumee Valley Chocolate & Candy is a locally owned and operated classic chocolate and retro candy store featuring fine fresh chocolates, boxed chocolates, sugar-free chocolates and candies, a large selection of nuts and specialty popcorn, beautiful gift baskets, fruit bouquets, and full-service party and event catering. They are located in historic Uptown Maumee on the corner of Conant and Wayne Street, and open Monday-Saturday 10-9 and Sunday 11-7. (419) 893-2388, valleycandy.com/

The Village Idiot at 309 Conant Street in the heart of Maumee, has been open every day since 1997, serving Great Pizza and Live Music. Consistently voted Toledo's Best Pizza and Best Local Music Venue, The Village Idiot presents live music 365 days a year.

The Idiot boasts of a "one-of-a-kind atmosphere for the creative class". It has played host to all the best local, regional, and national talent. Whether coming to a show or just enjoying an afternoon of pizza and

an awesome selection of craft beer, you'll soon see why The Village Idiot is like no other. Kitchen Hours, Sun – Thurs, 11am – midnight. Fri & Sat, 11am – 1am. For more information, visit Villageidiotmaumee.com or call (419) 893-7281

Georgette's Grounds & Gifts & Sunshine Studios are social enterprises of Sunshine Communities and are located in Uptown Maumee. You may have experienced them without even realizing that these businesses were operated by Sunshine Communities, turning awareness into tangible impact and ensuring every individual is seen, valued, and empowered.

Georgette's Grounds & Gifts offers full-service breakfast and lunch, catering, fair-trade brews, and award-winning treats—while creating meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The shop creates real opportunities where people can learn skills, earn income, and contribute their talents in an inclusive, community-centered workplace.

Sunshine Studios at 305 Conant Street is a creative space and retail shop where artists of all abilities create professional-quality art, with guided, on-site classes open to the public. They also sell pottery, textiles, paper art, and custom pieces—all handmade by artists supported by Sunshine Communities and local makers. Every purchase fuels creativity and opportunity in our community.

Happiness Happens in Maumee



Sunshine Communities began in Maumee over 75 years ago. It was founded by Georgette and Roy Engler as a single home; and it has grown into a comprehensive, faith-based nonprofit supporting individuals with developmental disabilities across Northwest Ohio. Rooted in connection, care, and personal growth, Sunshine continues to evolve—meeting people where they are at every stage of life.

Happiness happens through Sunshine's residential and community-based homes, where individuals are supported to live full, meaningful lives. From



family-style homes that foster independence to specialized campus residences offering 24/7 care, Sunshine provides living options centered on dignity, safety, and belonging. The organization is also a regional leader in advanced ventilator care and equipment, delivering highly specialized medical support across the lifespan.

Beyond housing, Sunshine's Maumee campus is designed to support whole-person growth. It includes an inclusive, accessible playground; an indoor therapeutic pool; sensory rooms and a full gym; a learning center; and vocational spaces such as a barn and greenhouse where individuals build skills, confidence, and purpose. A community

stage hosts outdoor concerts and events throughout the summer—open to the public and built to bring people together.

March is Developmental Disabilities Month. Whether you donate, volunteer, attend a class, enjoy a concert, or stop in for coffee, you're helping build a community where people are supported, valued, and empowered—where happiness truly happens here.



EVERY'S LAW: HOLDING DOG OWNERS MORE ACCOUNTABLE

by Zac Shaffer



There is a new law in Ohio that dog owners MUST be aware of!

In 2025, Ohio passed Avery's Law, which requires any dog that kills or seriously injures a person be put down. Unlike before, a dog's history or violent nature no longer determines the outcome. Under the prior law, a dog typically had to be classified as "dangerous" or "vicious" based on past behavior before the most severe consequences applied. That framework allowed prior incidents and documented aggression to factor into the legal process. The new law removes that history requirement in cases involving catastrophic injury or death. Now, it is one strike and the dog is out.

However, there are still protections afforded to our furry companions, such as the provocation clause. This means that if your dog was provoked, tormented, or abused into attacking, they are not subject to the harsh penalties of Avery's Law.

The change does not affect only animals. Dog

owners may be subject to significant criminal charges, including a felony. In the past, if a dog killed or seriously injured someone, the owner would be cited for failing to confine their dog. This usually means fines, and very rarely, a small amount of jail time in severe cases. Now, owners face the possibility of felony charges

So, why the change? Well, in 2024, Avery Russell, an 11-year-old girl, suffered life-altering injuries after being attacked by two dogs. She was permanently disfigured and lost both of her ears. The Russell family's life was permanently changed from medical treatment and bills to leaving the workforce to ensure that Avery had full-time care. Despite this, the dog's owners were sentenced to just 4 days in jail.

While most dog bite incidents are accidental and result in minor injuries, some cases cause permanent harm. The new law is intended to ensure that justice is served.

For responsible dog owners, the law serves as a reminder of the importance of prevention. Proper confinement, supervision, and training are no longer just best practices; they are essential safeguards against life-changing consequences.

Key Considerations for Dog Owners

- *Ensure fences, gates, and enclosures are secure and regularly inspected.*
- *Supervise dogs around children and unfamiliar visitors.*
- *Address signs of aggression early through training or professional evaluation.*
- *Confirm homeowners or renters insurance coverage for dog-related incidents.*
- *Understand that a single serious incident can now carry permanent consequences for both the dog and the owner.*

The law has changed. Awareness and prevention are the best ways to protect your family, your community, and your pet.

CASES OF INTEREST: MARCH 2026

Altercation at Youth Facility leads to Paralysis

Our client was a resident at a Department of Youth Services Facility. A week after arriving at the facility, another youth pushed our client, who fell and broke his neck. The fall left him totally paralyzed and on life support. The only way he can communicate is through blinking. He has undergone numerous surgeries.

Our firm is currently investigating this case, which occurred in a government-run facility. Our goal is to provide our client with the support and assistance to aid in his recovery process. We are committed to defending our client's rights and ensuring he is fully compensated for this horrendous event.

Drunk Driver Punctures Woman's Lung

Our client was driving through an intersection when a drunk driver ran a red light and smashed into her car. She immediately experienced chest and back pain. When she went to the ER she discovered she had a partially punctured lung, two fractured ribs, and fractures in her back. This required her to stay overnight at the hospital.

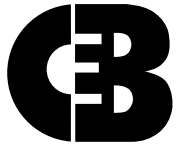
Our firm is working to give our client the compassionate support she needs at this time. We will not rest until she gets the justice and compensation she deserves for her injuries.

Utility Truck Crushes Car

Our client was traveling southbound on State Route 109 when a utility truck blew a stop sign and smashed into the driver's side of the car. As a result of the driver's negligence, our client suffered serious injuries, including multiple broken ribs, a broken shoulder blade, torn scapula, a hole in her lung, and a collapsed lung, which required numerous surgeries.

Our firm is working diligently on our client's behalf to ensure she is justly compensated for her injuries and supported through these difficult times.





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March's Raving Fan of the Month

“Charles Boyk has always been a great supporter of Imagination Station and sharing the importance of STEAM and hands-on learning. It’s nice to have them as a community partner”. – Imagination Station

Have a positive review to share?

Go to boykreviews.com to tell us about your experience!

CHARLES BOYK LAW OFFICES VOTED BEST ATTORNEY IN TOLEDO FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW!



Charles Boyk Law Offices has been voted Best Attorney in Toledo by the readers of the Toledo City Paper for the third straight year! The results were published in the March 2026 issue, and we are incredibly honored to once again earn the trust and support of our community.

Toledo City Paper’s annual readers’ poll celebrates the very best professionals, personalities, artists, and small businesses in the region. Being recognized three years in a row reinforces our mission: to serve our community with excellence, integrity, and dedication.

After weeks of voting and thousands of ballots cast, Charles Boyk Law Offices was named Best Attorney in Toledo for our third straight year.

“We are proud of our team for being named Best of Toledo three years in a row,” says Chuck Boyk. “This recognition reflects not only our legal skill and courtroom experience, but also our commitment to client service, compassion, and results. We want them to have a lifelong relationship with us.”

We are deeply grateful to the readers of Toledo City Paper and to the clients who trust us with some of the most important moments of their lives. To our clients, friends, and supporters — thank you for your continued confidence in our firm. We do not take it for granted.

NEW PAW CLERK JOINS THE BOYK FIRM

Meet Marshall, an 8-week-old Greater Swiss Mountain dog, aka a “Swissie”. He is the new Paw Clerk at Charles Boyk Law Offices. He is currently onboarding from home, while reviewing Boyk Law’s New Pawyer Handbook. Boyk Receptionist Shannon Liebich, says we can expect to see him in the Holland Office very soon.



New address or phone number? Help us stay current by letting us know!

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