



Facebook, Lawsuits & You!

Today everyone is getting into social media and communicating more and more with lots of people. The internet and sites like Facebook have made it so easy to communicate or speak your mind. What everyone forgets is what you say online can come back to haunt you, sometimes even leading to potentially devastating lawsuits.

In the winter of 2009, a teen from Oceanside, New York, sued Facebook, four of her class mates and their parents for \$3 million dollars. In the suit, she accused her classmates of bullying and humiliation, resulting from a post on Facebook.

They allegedly posted false and misleading statements and had to seek legal council to defend themselves. She didn't claim they physically harmed her; she sought damages for her reputation and humiliation. This is where many standard Homeowners Policies lack protection for today's new risks.

Most standard Homeowners Policies have coverage for liability (and legal defense) for bodily injury or property damage done to someone else. Most define bodily injury as harm, sickness or disease; property damage is generally defined as injury to, destruction of, or loss of use of physical property.

None of the standard definitions would cover injury to another's reputation.

The good news is you can get protection. Companies will offer riders or additional coverage that helps protect you in this situation. It's called Personal Injury Coverage. It will cover you for several issues such as oral and/or written publication of material violating someone's privacy. Also, Umbrella Policies can add to this type of protection or offer protection in some cases where the home policy doesn't.

As these sites grow in popularity, so do law suits based on these types of complaints. Make sure you are protected from any such suit. Call us today if you have any concerns or if you would like to review your policy.

Please don't let this be YOU.....

"But I don't live in a Flood Zone!"

"What do you mean I'm not covered?"

"My home is a wreck!"

Below are some little known and probably shocking facts about flood insurance.

insurance ..

You are NOT covered for flood damage without a flood insurance policy, and

- ◆ 98% of homeowners do NOT have a policy, and that
- ◆ 25% of flood claims happen in low-risk flood zones!
- ◆ According to www.floodsmart.gov, any home has a 26% chance of being damaged by flood during a 30 year mortgage, versus a 9% chance of being damaged by fire.
- ◆ Federal disaster assistance is usually a loan that must be paid back with interest. For a 50,000 loan and 4% interest, your monthly payment would be around \$240 a month (**\$2880 a year**) for 30 years. Compare that to a \$100,000 flood insurance premium, which is about \$120 a year for a preferred policy, (**\$10 a month**).
- ◆ If you live in a low-to-moderate risk area and are eligible for the preferred risk policy, your flood insurance premium may be as low as \$120 a year, including coverage for your property's contents.
- ◆ You are eligible to purchase flood insurance as long as your community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Call our office to see whether your community is already an NFIP partner.
- ◆ There is a 30 day waiting period for coverage to become effective. So, don't wait for the storm to hit. Take action today!

Don't wait, until its too late!

Get your home protected from floods, call us now, 515-989-3200 or email us, paul@goodhuenolte.com, today.