

# NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LEGAL SOLUTIONS

# SOUTH DAKOTA

# LEGAL NOTES

FEB 2018

## Nine Tips for Safe Driving During South Dakota's Winters



**Scott**  
Swier

Last month was a reminder that winter is not over! There are many of us who continue to commute even with parts of the state closed down for the day due to snow. Our friends at weather.com have put together a list of 9 tips to help you stay safe while you are braving the winter elements!

As always, it's a good idea to keep an emergency bag in your vehicle - things to include in your bag: extra blankets, crackers, and a tow strap.

- TIP**
- #1** Lower your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
  - #2** Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
  - #3** Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
  - #4** Keep your lights and windshield clean.
  - #5** Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
  - #6** Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
  - #7** Be careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first.

**#8** Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks.

**#9** Don't presume that your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.



### JANUARY NEWSLETTER CONTEST WINNER

*Congratulations to Debra Petersen for winning a FitBit Flex in our monthly contest - exclusively for our South Dakota Legal Notes subscribers.*

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# FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER CONTEST

4 tickets to Sioux Falls Stampede Hockey to the home game of the winner's choice (limited to the remaining 2017-2018 season).

Drawing to be held March 7, 2018.

Winners announced on our website blog and social media.



## Exclusive to Legal Notes Subscribers **ONLY!**

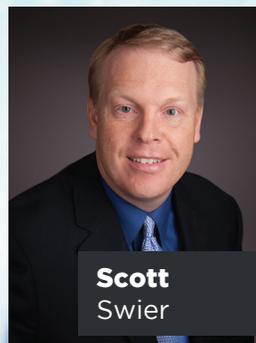
— ENTER TO WIN 4 HOCKEY TICKETS —

You can sign up by:

1. Visiting our website at: [SwierLaw.com/Contest](http://SwierLaw.com/Contest)
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## A 5 STAR REVIEW!

*"We used Swier Law Firm for a family law issue and estate planning. Both experiences and outcomes were positive. We were able to make appointments with the attorney easily and appreciated having his undivided attention when we talked. Thanks for the help Swier Law!"*



**Scott**  
Swier

*"Thank you for your review!  
I'm pleased we were able to help you with your various legal issues and look forward to continuing to help you."*

**Share Your Feedback at [SwierLaw.com/Review](http://SwierLaw.com/Review)**

# 6 SOUTH DAKOTA CHILD SUPPORT TIPS EVERY PARENT SHOULD KNOW



**Rebekkah  
Steinwand**

## **Tip #1 - Can my South Dakota child support increase when I am supporting my special needs child?**

Yes. In South Dakota, you can deviate from the child support schedule when you have a special needs child. For example, the cost of a caregiver with skills necessary to handle a child's complicated medication regimen or a specific vehicle that would support a child with cerebral palsy and seizure disorder.

## **Tip # 2 - How are child support arrears calculated in South Dakota?**

The court primarily looks at tax returns. In certain cases, the court may determine the parents' annualized income for purposes of calculating child support over a period of years.

## **Tip #3 - Is my bonus from work figured into child support in South Dakota?**

A bonus is income not accounted for in monthly income, and in order to count the bonus, it must be in the possession of the parent and consistently awarded.

## **Tip #4 - Are my living expenses considered when**

## **calculating child support in South Dakota?**

Living expenses would fit into the "relative financial condition" and could also include debts and expenses. These are factors a court may consider as a deviation from the Child Support Guidelines.



## **Tip #5 - Are daycare expenses considered in my South Dakota child support calculation?**

Daycare expenses are not a part of the basic child support obligation. Child care expenses are only considered as a part of your child support obligation as a deviation from the schedule, which must be requested.

## **Tip #6 - Does a step-parent's income impact a child support obligation in South Dakota?**

Yes. The income of a step-parent can trigger a deviation in the child support guidelines that adjusts a party's support obligation based on the financial condition of a party. A child support deviation must be requested.

*You will find more legal resources from our Family Law Practice Group at [SwierLaw.com/Library](http://SwierLaw.com/Library).*

## COOKIE DOUGH BITES

"My kids love to bake cookies but they love to "sample" the batter more. I love this recipe because it does not contain eggs so it's safe for them eat while we make it. They love to experiment with adding different kinds of treats, but chocolate chips are their favorite." (Sara Travis, Executive Director)

### *Ingredients:*

- 1 stick butter, softened
- 3/4 cup light brown sugar
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup peanut butter chips

### *Directions:*

1. In a large bowl with an electric mixer, beat butter and brown sugar until creamy. Add flour, salt, and vanilla and mix until crumbly. Add milk; mix well.
2. Stir in chocolate and peanut butter chips. Refrigerate leftovers.





**Scott**  
Swier

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*Veteran of the Game*



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## SWIER LAW FIRM VETERAN OF THE GAME

We have continued the Swier Law Firm Veteran of the Game campaign into the 2017-2018 hockey season during select Sioux Falls Stampede games. Thank you to all of our military men and women for their service and sacrifice for our country. And a very big thank you to their families for supporting them. Pictured are recent honorees Geoff Pollman and Andy Carpenter.