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Equity News & Views

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LEGISLATURE WATCH 2005

Montana's 2005 state legislative session is now underway. The senate has already tagged 160 bills and the tally in the house is presently at 218. Over 2000 drafts have been requested and it is a sure bet that this years legislation will touch all Montanans, including the process serving industry.

One proposed bill of interest, presently listed as LC 1407, will add clarification to the primary Registered Process Server statute, MCA 25-1-1101. It will spell out in black and white what can already be deduced, the jurisdiction of a registered process server is state wide.

Another section of LC 1407 will provide flexibility when filing the return of a writ of execution, thus allowing for the return service to be sent to the agent that had initially forwarded the writ instead of requiring that it be sent directly to the issuing court.

Still another section of the same bill, LC 1407, will provide new language regarding the garnishment of wages of employees of national chains. The proposed changes to the statute, MCA 25-13-402, address the need to serve a notice of levy to a payroll that is being processed outside the state of Montana.

Future editions of Equity News & Views will expand and editorialize on LC 1407 and other bills that affect process servers, employers and Montana courts.

For those of you who would like to monitor this year's legislature, you can do so online by going to discoveringmontana.com and clicking on the tab marked **CITIZEN SERVICES** and under that tab, find the **Search Services** heading and click. Finally, click on **Montana Legislative Info** and you are there!

The EQ Spotlight

As we begin the New Year, our EQ spotlight is on Jeri Stephens. Jeri joined our staff as a part time employee in July 2004. When she began working here, her work was primarily in the levy department in which she prepared the documents for levies on bank accounts, garnishment on wages as well as helping with the daily deposit and the mail preparation. She also prepared the documents needed

to send back to our clients and also to the courts. While her duties still include some of these items, she is now being focused more in the summons department as she has begun her training in the preparation of new summonses, subpoenas and notices for service. She is also learning how to prepare certificates of service for services performed by our office. In her short 6 months here, Jeri has already proven to be a steady and reliable asset to our staff.

Jeri admits to being a workaholic since she also has another full time job at a health club here in town where she is a personal trainer and also teaches aerobics. She said it is a good thing she does spend a lot of her time working because she also freely admits to being a shop-a-holic and says her place would probably be filled with "useless" stuff if she had the time to shop. Jeri is looking forward to the sunshine and warmer weather because she loves to be outside and enjoys participating in anything that gives her the chance to be out in the sun.



**JERI
STEPHENS**

EQUITY PROCESS MANAGEMENT

**PO BOX 4906
MISSOULA MT 59806**

Phone: 406-721-3337
888-721-3337

FAX: 406-721-0372

E-MAIL: equity@equityprocess.com

To:

WWW.EQUITYPROCESS.COM

MIGRAINES... AN EXCUSE OR A NEW AGED EPIDEMIC?

For those who manage a workforce, one of the frequently used reasons for an employee to miss work is the dreaded migraine.

Migraines affect about 6% of the population and is best described as a headache that throbs or pulsates on one side of the head, worsens with physical activity, may cause nausea or vomiting, and typically brings about an increased sensitivity to light and sound.

The complexity of today's lifestyles both at home and at work has led to higher stress, more loud noises, brighter lights, tobacco use, missed meals, caffeine, and alcohol use, all which are known to trigger the classical migraine headache. To be fair, not all causes are products of today's society, even the onset of a menstrual cycle or eating an orange can bring on a migraine.

The key to prevention is learning what activity or substance brings on your migraine and either avoiding the cause or taking a preemptive medication.

Migraines are chronic and there is no cure. Treatment goals are simply to control the symptoms. Resting in a quiet, darkened room can reduce the severity. Response to medication varies.

The only good trait of a migraine is that it is not life-threatening and rarely does permanent neurological damage. Because so much of the population is affected you can rest assured that research for a cure is a high priority within today's pharmaceutical industry.

