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Putting It Off

by Chris Earley

For those that don't know, my family moved to the suburbs a short time ago.

For many years, Rory and I lived in downtown Boston. Year after year we went back and forth on whether to stay in the city, or flee to the suburbs. We knew that city life would not last forever, and that we had to move someday. But, we still kept putting it off because we truly loved living in Boston. Our kids were in a great school, the city offered so much to do, and I loved the fact that my commute was literally a two-minute walk to the office.

It was so easy to stay in the city because of all the convenience city living gave to us. We got sucked in. We had lived in Boston for so many years, and it had been so good to us. But, it was undeniable that the kids were growing up really fast, and we needed more space! So we made the decision to pack it up and move to the suburbs.

At first, I was a little apprehensive. I kept thinking of Tom Hanks' hilarious mishaps in "The Money Pit" as well as "The 'Burbs." But once we actually made the move, things started to come together nicely in suburbia. It definitely was a big adjustment for all of us at first. Our kids had to start at a new school, and it was strange to have to drive everywhere. Plus, it was so quiet all the time!

But looking back, we made the right call. Our family loved our time living in



We've moved to the suburbs and are making new memories as a family.

downtown Boston, and we have so many great memories from that period. But, we are making new memories now. We live in a great community, and we are healthy, blessed, and grateful. This is a picture of me and the kids enjoying a lazy weekend afternoon.

Change is uncomfortable, and easy to put off. But without change, we just remain stuck in place. What changes have you recently made that propelled you forward, that you had previously put off? Email me at cearley@chrisearley.com and let me know.

- Chris Earley



Rory Earley

RORY'S RECIPES: Barefoot Contessa's Meat Loaf

In keeping with the theme of becoming suburbanites, there is nothing that reminds me more of the comforts of home than meatloaf and mashed potatoes! Ina Garten's recipe is not your grandmother's version! The fresh herbs and layering of flavors, makes for an amazing meal! Usually when I make this, instead of one "loaf" I do individual serving sized loaves and cook on a sheet pan. They reheat nicely, so it lasts for a few days!

INGREDIENTS:

I tablespoon olive oil

3 cups chopped yellow onions (3 onions)

I teaspoon chopped fresh thyme leaves

2 teaspoons kosher salt

I teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce

I/3 cup canned chicken stock or broth

I tablespoon tomato paste

2 1/2 pounds ground chuck (81 percent lean) 1/2 cup plain dry bread crumbs (recommended: Progresso)

2 extra-large eggs, beaten

I/2 cup ketchup (recommended: Heinz)

DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat the oven to 325°F.
- 2 Heat the olive oil in a medium saute pan. Add the onions, thyme, salt, and pepper and cook over medium-low heat, stirring occasionally, for 8 to 10 minutes, until the onions are translucent but not brown. Turn off the heat, then add the Worcestershire sauce, chicken stock, and tomato paste. Allow to cool slightly.
- 3 In a large bowl, combine the ground chuck, onion mixture, bread crumbs, and eggs, and mix lightly with a fork. Don't mash or the meat loaf will be dense. Shape the mixture into a rectangular loaf on a sheet pan covered with parchment paper. Spread the ketchup evenly on top. Bake for I to I I/4 hours, until the internal temperature is I60°F and the meat loaf is cooked through. (A pan of hot water in the oven, under the meat loaf, will keep the top from cracking.) Serve hot.

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Quote of the Month

"Don't raise your voice. Improve your argument."

- Desmond Tutu

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be pleasing to you. Thank you Chris and God

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- » Free Sweatshirt Swag!
- » FREE VIP Program for Massachusetts Residents
- » Family Law Q&A

2020 Super Lawyers Announcement



I am humbled and honored to once again be named a Massachusetts Super Lawyer. This award is a true team award as it reflects the efforts of everyone on the team performing their role at the highest level. I am really proud

of the whole team and this award that we won together!



The pandemic is causing serious stress to everyone. On top of it all, many are dealing with a stressful divorce, child support issues, or even both. My colleague Kassandra Tatt, Esq., who is a family law attorney, knows this area of law quite well. I asked her to share some information on this topic. Kassandra was kind enough to share with us the following:

Family Law Q&A

Q: Can a case still be filed in court?

A: Yes, if you are looking to file a matter with the Probate & Family Court, you still can. There is now a virtual registry that can assist with filing. Court hearings are currently still taking place by telephone or by Zoom.

Q: Can child support be lowered if my employment has been impacted?

A: With the pandemic impacting employment so greatly, lowering child support may be necessary if you have experienced a reduction in income. As stated in the previous question, you can still file to reduce your child support. Although you may not get a court date right away since the

courts are so backlogged, the reduction will be calculated back to the date of filing.

Q: How is parenting time being impacted because of social distancing guidelines and other restrictions?

A: As we navigate this constantly shifting landscape together, it is important that parents and attorneys keep lines of communication open with each other to discuss any concerns, including whether you, someone in your household, or the child has been exposed. In this situation, all parties need to remember that the best interests, health, and safety of the child and the parties are priorities. All CDC guidelines and guarantine

measures must be taken if anyone has been exposed. If it results in loss of parenting time, then the parties and counsel should engage in constructive discussion and have flexibility about make up parenting time. It is particularly beneficial to maintain productive communication given the court delays.

If you would like to contact Attorney Tatt, her contact information is:

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