

Criminal Law News

online

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Health and criminal liability

Women who ‘pile on the pounds’ during pregnancy could be putting their child at risk of heart disease in later life, it was reported. A study assessed the relationship between mothers’ weight gain in pregnancy and weight before pregnancy, and their children’s body fat and heart disease risk. The results show a positive association between greater than recommended weight gain during pregnancy and the child having more body fat at the age of nine. The study was restricted to women who agreed for their medical records to be examined and whose children attended a follow-up assessment at the age of nine.

This article can be bought from Westlaw.

A sample of Chicago’s crimes- June 2010

1. False call to police

A Southside Chicago man was charged with making false calls to police, alleging that he had been shot in order for police to respond more quickly to his stolen car complaint made earlier. The complainant was on probation for a felony drug conviction. He denied making the call about the alleged shooting but was charged with felony disorderly conduct, besides which, he was found to have violated his earlier sentence of probation.

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Proposed immigration laws for Indiana similar to Arizona's Sally Ramage

Republican state senator Mike Delph said state policy needs overhaul. Mike Delph’s original proposal did not call for profiling illegal immigrants prior to being arrested, but Delph recently announced he would introduce legislation similar to Arizona’s. He criticized Indiana’s immigration laws. He said they were weak immigration laws. Carmel Police Department said some men had tried to enter Indiana with false names. The U.S. Department of Justice said that Arizona’s new immigration law is illegal because it stops proper border control.

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Dangerous driving in the UK

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Section 2 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 gives five parts to the offence of ‘ dangerous driving’:

- (i) A person who drives
- (ii) a mechanically propelled vehicle
- (iii) dangerously
- (iv) on a road or other public place
- (v) is guilty of an offence.

The word ‘dangerously’ contains the word ‘dangerous’, which means that an objective condition must be satisfied that the driving was dangerous, as in *R v Church* [1966] 1 QB 59. The facts of *Church* were that Church, the defendant, and a woman went to his van with the intention to have sex but he was unable to perform satisfactorily for her. This made her angry and she slapped his face as they fought. She was knocked unconscious and Church thought that she had died and in his panic, he threw her body into a nearby river, where she drowned....

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