

## Cheryl Ewen

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**From:** Claire Ayer <senatorayer@gmavt.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 16, 2017 2:56 PM  
**To:** Cheryl Ewen  
**Subject:** Fwd: legal notices in print

Senator Claire Ayer  
Addison County, Huntington, and Buels Gore  
Chair, Senate Health and Welfare Committee

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Angelo Lynn <[angelo@addisonindependent.com](mailto:angelo@addisonindependent.com)>  
**Date:** March 16, 2017 at 11:30:55 AM EDT  
**To:** Claire Ayer <[SENATORAYER@gmavt.net](mailto:SENATORAYER@gmavt.net)>  
**Subject:** legal notices in print

Good morning, Claire,

I'm writing to discuss a few points on the value of printing legal notices in print newspapers, and would like the opportunity to speak with you about it when you have time; perhaps next Monday?

Courtney Lamdin, our editor at the Essex Reporter, Colchester Sun and Milton Independent, will hopefully be delivering comments to the Senate committee today on our behalf. Those comments will roughly follow what is written below:

To the committee:

The basic premise of legal or public notices appearing in a print publication is to verify that any government entity has adequately informed a wide spectrum of the general public of an impending action important enough to fall under this requirement.

Print newspapers have historically served that function because they:

- 1) serve an adequately wide spectrum of the general public pertinent to the appropriate government body;
- 2) can print the legal notice in a timely manner according to law (often up to 3 consecutive times over a specified period of time - three weeks or more)
- 3) and provide a consistent and intuitive outlet for public notices that citizens know and refer to when looking for such information.

Those are the fundamental requirements of the law, and newspapers meet the need precisely.

But the printed newspaper often goes a step further: it also provides context through a news story and/or consistent coverage of government meetings. And with public notices that have a significant impact on the community, it goes without saying that the newspaper in that community will also be reporting on the issue. **That's important because** the community members most interested in the subject matter will be reading about it in the newspaper, and also be further informed by the information contained in the public notice. *Reaching an audience that is interested and cares should be one of the primary considerations of where legal notices are published. It does no good to put legal notices on electronic sites that draw few viewers.*