

William H. Shaevel
Kenneth A. Krems
Daniel S. O'Connor
David R. Jackowitz
Amy Rosengarten Waksler
Craig D. Nickerson

A D V I S O R Y

As you probably know, several weeks ago a deck at a triple decker in Brighton collapsed injuring fourteen individuals. The Inspectional Services Department issued nine citations against the owner of the property. In addition, the owner may be fined.

The Boston City Council voted in 1995 to require property owners to obtain a certificate from an engineer or architect every five years ensuring the structural integrity of all porches and decks on residences of four families or more. This ordinance has not been enforced recently, but with the collapse of the deck in Brighton, it is likely that the ISD will now work diligently to enforce it.

As a result of the collapse, residents in Boston and surrounding communities may be more aware of the potential dangers of an unsafe deck or porch and may question its structural soundness. This could result in more inspections of your properties, and lead to citations if a deck is not being properly maintained or if the proper permits were not obtained to erect a deck or porch.

If you need any further information, please feel free to contact any member of the Shaevel & Krems Real Estate Management Team.

Ken Krems, Esq. David R. Jackowitz, Esq. Amy Rosengarten Waksler, Esq.

Lisa O'Brien, Paralegal Kathy Nagle, Paralegal