

Jeffrey Meldon

MELDON

LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER BY THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

Lawyer Jokes (Inspired by The Sky's Bob Rose)

The Car Wreck

A doctor and a lawyer got into a car accident on a small country road.

The lawyer had figured that nobody else would be on the road, and had raced through a stop sign.

The doctor, on a cross street, had no time to react and couldn't have missed the lawyer if he had tried. Fortunately, neither driver was hurt.

The lawyer, seeing that the doctor was a little shaken up, helped him from his battered car and offered him a drink from a hip flask.

The doctor accepted, took a deep drink, and handed the flask back to the lawyer. The lawyer held the flask for a minute or two, and gave it to the doctor again. The doctor took another swig. He again returned the flask to the lawyer, who closed it and put it away.

"Aren't you going to have a drink yourself?" asked the doctor.

"Not now," answered the lawyer. "I'll have something after the police leave."

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Welcome To Our December Newsletter! *Happy Holidays*

Happy December! Here are some tidbits about a few December holidays & traditions:

► **Boxing Day, Dec 26:** Boxing Day, is a legal holiday in England with its roots going back to the middle ages. It was on this day that merchants filled boxes with food and fruit to give to their servants, trades people, and the poor; gifts among equals were exchanged on the 25th. **Boxing Day is a day to help others and may be the origin of the Christmas bonus from employers.**

► **St. Nicholas Day, Dec 6:** St. Nick, a Bishop in the Catholic church, who lived in Greece a couple of hundred years after the birth of Christ, was well known for giving to needy people, especially children. Today, in many parts of the world St. Nick delivers gifts on the eve of his Feast Day, Dec. 6, and Christmas is reserved for the religious observance of Christ's birth.

► **Santa Claus:** It wasn't until the 1800's that the spirit of St. Nick evolved into Santa Claus in America. Santa Claus is portrayed as kind and generous to children. However, unlike St. Nick, Santa Claus is largely a non-religious character.

► **The hanging of stockings originated with St. Nick.** St. Nick was legend to throw small bags of coins into the open windows of the poor. After one bag fell into the stocking of a child, news got around, and children began hanging their stockings by their chimneys "in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there."

► **Humbug Day, Dec. 21:** The creators of this day, wellcat.com, say that this holiday allows everyone preparing for Christmas a day to vent their frustrations. **Only 12 Humbugs Allowed!**



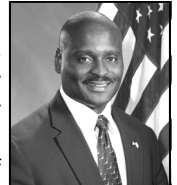
Happy Holidays and Holiday Traditions To All, From Everyone at the Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon and Associates!

Office News: *We welcome a new columnist and column - "Ask A Cop!"*

The Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon & Associates is excited and proud to announce a new column in our Newsletter, "Ask a Cop," written by, Officer, Jeffrey McAdams.

► Jeff McAdams has been a local law enforcement officer for the past 17 years. Prior to moving to Gainesville, Officer McAdams served 10 years in the United States Air Force. ► **He is also President** of Gator Lodge 67, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), which represents over 350 local law enforcement officers and is the largest organization of law enforcement professionals in the U.S.. ► **The FOP is committed** to improving the working conditions of law enforcement officers and the safety of those they serve through education, legislation, information, community involvement, and employee representation.

► **To find out more** about the FOP you can visit their website @ foplodge67.org.



Officer McAdams

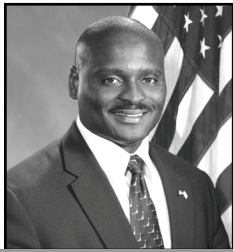
A Note From Jeffrey: *Welcome and Thank You!*

My Staff, Associates, and I **welcome our new clients** that joined the Meldon Law Family this past month and send **our personal thanks to all that referred friends and family and have gone out of their way to send notes of appreciation.** The Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon and Associates is proud to represent people in the "Heart of Florida" for accidents and personal injury.

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THE LAW OFFICE OF
JEFFREY MELDON
ASSOCIATES

TOLL FREE
1-800-373-8000



Officer, Jeff McAdams

“While waiting for an officer to arrive at the scene, obtain the names and contact information of persons who may have witnessed the crash. It is also important to get the Officer’s name and case report number.”
Jeff McAdams

The Scholar-Athletes of the Week; North Central Florida’s Best and Brightest!

October:

10/15— David Leopard from Trinity Catholic for Football

10/22— Danielle Kerr from Eastside for Swimming

10/29— Mayan Alvarado from P.K. Young for Volleyball

November:

11/5— Anna Bedford from Buchholz for Volleyball

11/12—Crey Wilson from GHS for Football

Congratulations!



Consumer Protection Accident Guide Book

Ask a Cop: Should you move your car after a crash?

Question: A few days ago my boyfriend was in a car accident. Thank God he wasn’t hurt. The accident occurred during rush hour traffic, and he blocked traffic for nearly 30 minutes until the police officer arrived and had him move his car from the roadway. **My question is: when you are involved in an accident, is it better to leave your car where the accident occurred until after the officer arrives on scene, or go ahead and move it?**

Answer: What a great question. Besides the fact that I’m sure your boyfriend drew some unfavorable comments from passing commuters that he held up by not moving his vehicle, he was also in violation of Florida law. **Here is what you should know about moving your vehicle after an accident:**

▶ If you have the misfortune of being involved in a crash, regardless if you are at fault or not, **you must immediately and safely stop your car and check to see if anyone is hurt.**

▶ **If someone is injured,** call 911 to get help immediately. If the injuries appear to be serious and there are no major safety hazards, leave the injured person in the vehicle until emergency medical personnel arrive. Moving a seriously injured person yourself could cause them additional injuries.

▶ **If there are no injuries** or only minor injuries, you must move your vehicle from the roadway only if you can do so safely and quickly. **I recommend that you first take several photographs of the final resting position of the vehicles involved in the crash before you move them** if it can be done safely and quickly. Please, don’t risk your life for a picture, if traffic is heavy. The responding officer is trained to reconstruct the crash. *Jeff McAdams has been a local law enforcement officer for the past 17 years. He is also President of Gator Lodge 67, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), which represents over 350 local law enforcement officers. Prior to moving to Gainesville, Officer McAdams served 10 years in the United States Air Force.*

Jeffrey Meldon/WCJB TV 20’s Scholar-Athlete Update... Congratulations Students!

The Jeffrey Meldon/WCJB TV 20 Scholar-Athlete program has been in existence since 1997. Every week during the school year a deserving high school senior is awarded the title of “Scholar-Athlete Of The Week” and receives a \$100 scholarship and a plaque. The award is announced on TV 20’s Thursday evening sports news @6:00 and includes a video clip of the student and their achievements. In the column to the left are the latest winners.

Meldon & Friends’ “Trivial Pursuit” for December

Q: Pearl Harbor Day commemorates the Japanese attack on the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, that occurred at dawn on _____.

Q: December used to be the _____ month of the Roman year and gets its name from “decem,” which means _____.

Q: St. Nick, patron Saint of children, was Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, which is modern day_____.

Q: Eli Whitney, inventor of the _____, was born on Dec. 8, 1765.

Q: Legend states that all animals of the forest can speak in human tongue on _____.

Q: Winter solstice is the day with the longest hours of daylight in the Southern Hemisphere. **T or F?**

Answers: December 7, 1941 10th Ten Turkey Cotton Gin Christmas Eve True

Are you prepared & adequately insured, in case of an accident ?



Accident Kit with Camera

Most people think it will never happen to them. However, statistics show that one in five drivers will be involved in a traffic accident this year. How can you protect yourself? Always buckle-up yourself and all your passengers properly; don’t drive under the influence; don’t drive distracted; and make sure your vehicle is properly maintained. **However, sometimes accidents still occur.** We recommend you:

- 1. Make sure your insurance policy is adequate.**
- 2. Know what to do** in the event of an accident.
- 3. Be ready to document the facts** with your Accident Kit with Camera in your glove compartment! ▶ To request your **complimentary Guide Book**, (which includes Mr. Meldon’s insurance tips and recommendations) and **Accident Kit with Camera**, call **(800) 373-8000** or visit **MedonLaw.com**.

You will be prepared if you have your Accident Kit with Camera and your Consumer Protection Accident Guide Book! Order yours today! It’s Free!

The Office Blogs: *Great news—Floridians are buckling up more than the rest!*

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) recently reported some great news: "... statewide safety belt use reached a record 85.2% this year following FDOT's 2009 Click It or Ticket safety belt campaign and the passage of the state's primary enforcement law. The national safety belt use rate for 2009 is 84%."

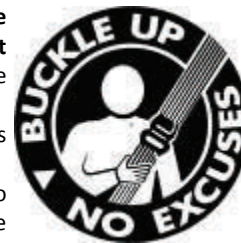
► **I applaud** Florida's lawmakers and law enforcement organizations for their effectiveness that resulted in this amazing statistical accomplishment.

► **This is great news for all Floridian's safety** and that of our visitors. However, we need to keep up the good work. Each of us need to continue to properly wear our seat belt every time we start our engines, no matter how long the trip. Make sure everyone in the car does the same! Remember, our children are watching and learning.

► **The bottom line: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** estimates that with passage of the primary safety belt law in June, 2009 that "Florida will save 124 lives, prevent 1,733 serious injuries, and save \$408 million in associated costs each year."

► **So, Buckle up Florida— it just might save a life and it could be yours or that of a loved one.**

► **I would also like to remind all parents and caretakers to make sure your young passengers are buckled up safely with properly installed, and age-appropriate safety restraints.** Contact Safe Kids of North Central Florida @ (352) 231-4636 or on-line @ ShandsSafeKids.org.



Law Talk 101: *Tort Reform—Educate yourself!*

What is a Tort? A tort is a civil wrong - damage, injury, or a wrongful act, other than a breach of contract, done purposefully, negligently, or under strict liability for which an individual harmed by it can bring a civil suit against the wrongdoer. By bringing a tort action, a harmed person generally seeks money from the person or company who caused the harm. Examples are: car accidents, slip and fall accidents, medical malpractice, and product liability.

What is tort reform? Tort reform refers to legislative measures designed to limit potential money damages injured individuals may receive in legal actions and to limit the circumstances under which injured people may sue.

Proponents of tort reform argue that the high cost of litigation, high number of frivolous lawsuits (lawsuits without any legal basis), and excessive jury awards, demand caps on the amount of damages an injured person may receive. They argue that monetary caps will encourage fair compensation and keep costs down.

Opponents of tort reform argue that tort reform is actually a movement by big corporations, such as tobacco and insurance companies, to reduce their liability in lawsuits. Opponents argue that potential lawsuits actually encourage companies to make safer products, cause doctors to be more careful, discourage the sale of dangerous products, and deter people from engaging in unsafe behavior, thus preventing injuries.

An example: The driver of an 18 wheeler fails to pay attention and crashes his rig into a family car, causing severe lifetime disabilities and death. **What rights do the injured parties have?** If it were up to the trucking company, most likely, the injured would have very few rights and receive little or no compensation.

The question: If the family in that car was yours, what right to compensation should you have?

How does tort reform enter into this scenario? Advocates of tort reform would limit the injured family's rights to collect damages, favoring the trucking company.

Beware: It is the large well-funded insurance companies that are promoting a view of the civil justice system that is one-sided and not helpful to individuals or their rights.

KTK's Storm Roberts & Chris's: *"Criminals Are Stupid!"*

► **MAN ROBS BANK WITH BANANA, LEAVES WALLET BEHIND:** A Pennsylvania man who tried to rob a bank with a rotten banana in his pocket was arrested after he accidentally left his wallet on the counter. Investigators say the man entered the bank with the wallet and some pieces of paper in his hand and approached a teller telling her to give him money. When she gave the man \$800, he said it wasn't enough and fled. He faces charges of robbery, theft and receiving stolen property. (The Morning Call)

► **BURGLAR REQUESTS UPDATED MUGSHOT:** A Welsh man accused of burglary sent a more recent photo of himself standing next to a police van to a newspaper asking that they use the picture because he was not happy with the old mugshot they ran in the papers. A spokesman for the paper said he phoned them last Monday to voice his displeasure with the photograph and said he would send a new one. To the newspaper's surprise, the photo arrived later in the week. Police say the media attention to the new photograph will help to catch him faster. (UPI)

► **MAN STEALS CAR TO FACE PREVIOUS THEFT CHARGE:** The California Highway Patrol said a man stole a car so he could make a court appearance for a previous theft charge. The man was pulled over and arrested after a LoJack system in the car led police to him. He told police that his car had been impounded and he had no other way to get to his arraignment. (AP)

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Check out KTK's Storm Roberts',
"Criminals are Stupid"! (pg. 3)

Happy Boxing Day! Dec. 26



You can check out **Law Talk Live** 10:30 Saturday morning on The SKY/97.3 FM.
Call in with your question. We want to hear from you! What are *you* concerned about?
The longest, continuous running legal affairs program in the Southeast United States. Give us a call!

Look Inside
This Issue

- ▲ Do you know what Tort Reform is?
- ▲ "Ask a Cop." Should I move my car?
- ▲ Welcome to Officer Jeff McAdams
- ▲ Great news for Floridians! Keep buckling up!

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Ask Jeffrey: *What is a safe following distance?*

Q: How much space should I leave between me and the car in front to follow safely?

A: Tailgating and other aggressive driving behaviors account for at least half of auto accidents. In addition, with an increase in distracted driving (chatting, texting, etc) drivers must be prepared to stop suddenly and safely. This requires paying attention to the road and following at a safe distance. ► There are many factors that go into deciding how much space to leave between you and the vehicle you are following: speed, reaction time of the driver, weight of the vehicle, and the road conditions. In general, the faster you are traveling, the heavier the vehicle, the slower your reaction time, and the wetter the road—the more distance you need to leave between you and the car ahead.

► Currently, experts recommend the 2 (or 3) second rule. This is how it works:

- On a dry road, there should be a 2 second delay between you and the car ahead. You can estimate this by finding a fixed object, such as a sign, and counting how long it takes you to pass it after the car in front of you does... "one-one-thousand, two-one-thousand," etc. It is recommended that 2 seconds go by before you pass the object. Many experts even recommend a 3 second delay to play it safe.
- On a wet road, there should be a 4 second delay.
- Roads that have ice, compacted snow, oil, or fuel on them can require 10 times the space!

Note: If you double your driving speed, your breaking distance does not become twice as long but rather four times as long!

Jeffrey Meldon is a proud Life Member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, a prestigious group of trial lawyers throughout the country. Membership is limited to attorneys that have won million dollar verdicts, awards and settlements for their clients. Less than 1% of U.S. lawyers are members of this forum!



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