



MELDON

LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

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

Courtroom Humor

A man on trial had previously plead "not guilty." However, once the jury of, eight woman and four men had been seated the defendant switched his plea. "Why the change?" asked the judge. "Were you persuaded to plead 'guilty'?"

"No Sir," the man replied. "When I plead 'not guilty,' I didn't know women would be on the jury. I can't fool one woman, so I know I can't fool eight of them!"

A witness was called to testify about a head-on automobile collision. "Whose fault was this accident?" the lawyer asked. "As near as I could tell," replied the witness, "they hit each other at about the same time."

The defense attorney was questioning the plaintiff, "You claim, that my client came at you with a broken bottle in his hand. But is it not true that you had something in YOUR hand?" "Yes," he admitted, "his wife."

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July—Honor Thy Mother and Father—Parents' Day

National Parents' Day, signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1994, is the fourth Sunday of July, celebrated this year on July 24. Parents' Day, a combination of Mother's and Father's Day, is a special day to honor and show appreciation for your parents' love and support.

Generally, this is not a day of gift giving. Possibly, the best way to mark this day is to spend time with your parents, doing something fun. Here are some ideas:

- Create a family photo album or scrap book together;
- Cook a special family dinner for your parents;
- Give your parents a night out or plan a family evening out;
- Have a family game night together.



Meet TG—You are in good hands with TG!

"I love my job! What I like most about my position is being familiar with what is happening in all aspects of the office, which allows me to help all our clients, lawyers, and staff. Here, every day is unique—meeting new clients and helping established clients—every day has new challenges, and I am never bored!" TG

Born and raised in the city of Alachua, TG and her family still enjoy country life there. TG wears many "hats" in the office including: "welcoming committee," communications director; Criminal Department legal assistant; and scheduling coordinator. Plus, she makes sure everyone gets to where they need to be on time. TG has been with us for 10 years. Before joining us, she worked at the State Attorney's Office as an administrative assistant for 8 years.



"TG has perhaps one of the most important jobs in the office. It is said, "First impressions make a lasting impression," which is only one reason why TG is an invaluable asset to the office. TG always helps create a positive experience for everyone who calls, visits, or works in the office. Whether you are at the office for an appointment or calling, you can always expect a warm welcome from TG. She knows most of our clients by their voice alone and goes out of her way to make them feel a part of our family and be of assistance. I can not emphasize enough how much I value and appreciate TG's dedication and service." Jeffrey

The Meldon Law Firm serves the "Heart of Florida" and the entire state for accidents, personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, dog bites, slip and fall, DUI, and criminal defense.

Consultations are always free and welcome.

- * If you have a legal situation that my Firm does not handle, I will gladly refer you to a trusted attorney that can.
- * To all who referred friends and family or gone out of their way to send notes of appreciation, I thank you! *Jeffrey Meldon*

**ALWAYS, JUST
A CALL AWAY!**

THE LAW OFFICE OF
JEFFREY MELDON
ASSOCIATES

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In honor of our clients and subscribers from North Central and Central Florida—a new column, Community Spotlight.

Community Spotlight: Alachua—The Good Life Community

Here are some interesting tidbits and facts about the City of Alachua:

- Alachua was established in 1884 on the railroad line after Newnansville, a town located 1.5 miles Northeast of Alachua, was bypassed by the railroad. (All that remains of the once flourishing Newnansville are two cemeteries and the remnants of a road.)
- Alachua got its first post office in 1887 and was incorporated as a city on April 12, 1905, when it had a population of about 500. Today, Alachua is home to approximately 7,500 and growing.
- Approximately 25 biotechnology, genetic research, agricultural, and environmental engineering firms have made Alachua home.
- Alachua's Motto is, "The Good Life Community." It is also a pleasant place to spend the day strolling the city's quaint shops and enjoying the local restaurants and musicians.
- The largest Hare Krishna community in the Western Hemisphere is located in Alachua.

Jeffrey's Outstanding Community Youth of the Month—Lindsay Wheeler

There are many deserving youths in our community that often do not receive the recognition they deserve. Lindsay Wheeler, who was nominated by her grandmother, Alice Wheeler, for her outstanding accomplishments, is one of them.

Lindsay graduated from Buchholz High with a **3.9 GPA**. She was a long distance runner until recruited to form and be captain of the Lacrosse team for Buchholz. Lindsay also coached the Westside Middle School girl's Lacrosse team. In addition, she was elected to produce the "Cat Prowl" for 2011. Lindsay also received the "**best dressed senior**" award, which is significant, according to her grandmother, as most of her wardrobe came from thrift shops. While accomplishing all this, Lindsay was also active in her church and found time for volunteer work and part-time jobs.

Congratulations, Lindsay!

To nominate your admirable young person, contact us at nancyhunter123@gmail.com or MeldonLaw.com

Safety Alert: Parents and caregivers— "Look Before You Lock!"

The number of children who die in hot cars is spiking in the U.S. Blame it on busy, tired, multitasking, distracted, stressed parents, changes in schedules, or safer rear-facing car seat guidelines. **To protect your child, LOOK BEFORE YOU LOCK!**

Most parents believe this could never happen to them. A father who left his 8 month old in the car when he went to work said, "Before this, when I would read of a child dying in a parked car of hyperthermia, I would think, 'How could they forget their child? I would never do that. That only happens to uneducated people, drunks, drug-addicts, not me!'"

If you can forget your cell phone or drive off with your cup of coffee on top of your car, you can forget your child.



Placing your purse, briefcase, lunch bag, or other essential item on the back seat next to your child, are simple ways to help prevent tragedy. Please see KidsandCars.org for more lifesaving information and ideas.

GET IN THE HABIT OF LOOKING BEFORE YOU LOCK—IF YOUR CHILD IS IN THE CAR WITH YOU OR NOT!

Wondering what you should do after an accident or injury?



Consumer Protection
Accident Guide Book



Now available on audio CD!

Most people think it will never happen to them. However, statistics show that one in five will be involved in a traffic crash. **How can you protect yourself and family?**

Be safe, educated, adequately insured, and prepared!



Insurance Guide



1-800-373-8000

Have your **free** accident kit, including camera and guide, at hand!

Office Blog: *Be Safe on our Waterways—5 Florida Boating Basics*

Summer months are often the most dangerous for Florida's waterways. Already this year, 18 people have been killed in boating accidents, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). In 2010, there were 668 boating accidents, resulting in 79 deaths. About 66% of those involved in accidents had no formal boater education training.

To help keep our citizens and visitors safe on the water, here are five of Florida's boating basics:

1. **Boating Under the Influence (BUI):** Florida's DUI laws apply to boating. It is illegal to operate a watercraft with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08% or higher (or .02% for under 21 years of age) or operate a boat while impaired by drugs or alcohol.
2. **Boater Education and I.D.:** To operate a boat of 10 horsepower or more, if you were born on or after January 1, 1988, you must successfully complete an approved boater's education course and obtain an I.D. from the FWC (effective January 1, 2010). See the FWC for exceptions.
3. **Tourist Boat Rentals:** A non-Florida resident must comply with Florida boater and education requirements or equivalent. Proof of successful completion of an equivalent out-of-state course, such as NASBLA approved, may suffice.
4. **Minimum Age of Operation:** A personal watercraft operator must be at least 14 years of age.
5. **Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs):** There must be at least one PFD (Type I, II, or III, and USGS approved) for vessels 25.9 feet and less, including canoes and kayaks. Children under six years of age must wear a PFD. In federal waters off Florida's coast, children 13 years and under must wear a PFD. Vessels 16 feet or longer must also carry a Type IV "throw-able" PDF. Water skiers and anyone towed behind a boat must wear a PFD.



For more Florida boating regulations, visit the FWC's website at <http://myfwc.com/boating/boating-regulations>

"Trivial Pursuit" for July... *Have a great July!*

Q: July is known as the unlucky month for _____.

Q: Bastille Day is July 14. It commemorates _____ liberation and the beginning of democracy in 1789.

Q: July 24th honors a famous aviation pioneer who broke many records. Mystery still surrounds the disappearance of _____ over the Pacific in 1937. In fact, the U.S. navy searched over 250,000 miles of ocean to no avail.

Q: July 4th is our independence day, celebrating freedom from _____, and the day when the _____ was signed.

Q: Father-In-Law Day, the day to honor your spouse's dad, was most likely created by _____.

Q: The flower of the month for July is the, _____. This rare and beautiful flower's meaning is an open heart and ardent attachment.

Answers: *weddings, France's, Amelia Earhart, British Rule, Declaration of Independence, Hallmark, Larkspur*

Interesting Case of the Month—Workers' Compensation System Foiled

Recently, a young woman was **injured in a car accident, while on the job**. She had been to two other lawyers before coming to our office. **The other lawyers were only able to get her a \$25,000 offer on her claim. Plus, she was being denied the surgery that the Workers' Compensation doctor said she required.**

The problem was that the Workers' Compensation adjuster was controlling the situation and was unreasonably denying her medically necessary surgery. Her prior lawyers apparently didn't know how to deal with the Workers' Compensation System.

When she came to our office, I accepted the case and took control. I explained that she had legal rights to get treatment and surgery, and she could also get money from the person that caused the accident.

Ultimately, the woman's case settled for \$225,000, plus \$30,000 from Workers' Compensation. She underwent surgery, and is feeling better. She was even able to return to work and graduated from Nursing School. She is thankful to us for helping her get her life back on track.

Disclaimer: Because we obtained these results in this case, does not necessarily mean we can get them on yours. **We are dedicated to justice!**

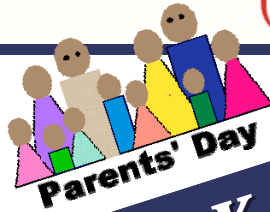
Note: This publication is intended to **educate** the general public. **It is not intended to be legal advice.** Every case is unique.

WORKING FOR
JUSTICE
SINCE 1971

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Ask Jeffrey: Hospital Medical Malpractice—Do I need a lawyer?

Yes. If you have a serious injury caused by medical malpractice, do **not** go it alone. Hire an experienced medical malpractice attorney ASAP. An experienced lawyer is necessary to be on an equal playing field and to get justice for the wrongful care that resulted in injury or death.

Occasionally, a hospital will offer an individual a quick settlement when there is a fairly obvious mistake that caused harm. They may even tell you to not hire a lawyer because attorney's fees will only reduce your settlement. Here are a few things to consider:

1. **Hospitals are experienced** in analyzing and handling malpractice claims and settlement negotiations. Their representative knows what your claim is really worth. It is their job to know these things, but probably not yours, so you are on unequal ground.
2. **The responsibility of** the hospital's claims adjuster is to not pay fair value, rather to pay the least amount they can get away with.
3. **Most malpractice cases** have complicated liens against your settlement by entities like Medicare, HMOs, or other private insurance companies.
4. **Failure to pay back these liens can be a crime.**
5. **The hospital will hire** a team of top notch lawyers, who specialize in malpractice defense and know all possible technicalities and strategies to get your case thrown out.



We appreciate your referral of family and friends. Show them you care enough to help.

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