



MELDON LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

July/August 2012 Volume IV, Issue VII

MeldonLaw.com

Lawyer Humor— A farmer walks into a lawyer's office wanting to file for divorce...

The attorney asks, "May I help you?" **The farmer says,** "Yeah, I want to get one of them thar divorces."

The attorney asks, "Well do you have any grounds?" **The farmer says,** "Yeah, I got me about 140 acres."

The attorney says, "No, you don't understand. Do you have a case?" **The farmer says,** "No, I don't have a Case, I have a John Deere."

The attorney says, "No, you don't understand. I mean do you have a grudge?" **The farmer says,** "Yeah, I got me a grudge, that's where I parks me John Deere."

The attorney says, "No sir, I mean do you have a suit?" **The farmer says,** "Yes sir, I got me a suit. I wear it to church on Sundays."

The exasperated attorney says, "Well sir, does your wife beat you up or anything?" **The farmer says,** "Oh no sir. We both get up about the same time, around 4:30."

Finally, the attorney says, "Okay, let me put it to you this way. "Why do YOU want a divorce from your wife?"

To which the farmer replies, "Well," says the farmer, "I can never have me a meaningful conversation with her."

Office News— In Loving Remembrance of T.G.



**T.G. CLARK
LEGAL ASSISTANT AND RECEPTIONIST**

On June 18, 2012 our office lost one of our most beloved co-workers and friends after a valiant battle with cancer. T.G. Clark left this world as she lived her life, with courage and a smiling face. For over 12 years, T.G.'s caring voice was usually the first thing our clients would hear when they called the office. She always remembered your voice and treated everyone who called or visited the office with kindness and respect. T.G. was a rare and special person who had warmth and friendliness written all over her face and ingrained in her soul. Although she is no longer physically with us, her spirit and our memories of T.G. will always be present and remembered. T.G. had many friends and admirers from all different walks of life. Her departure from this earth has left many with a sadness and emptiness that only time may be able to heal. T.G. Clark was truly "one in a million" and our office will never be the same without her.

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. **We are available for you 24/7.**

Consultations are always free, welcomed, and just a call away. 800 373 8000

* If you have a legal situation that my Law Firm does not handle, I will gladly refer you to a trusted attorney who does.

* To all who referred friends and family or have gone out of their way to send notes of appreciation, I thank you! **Jeffrey Meldon**



The Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon & Associates is dedicated to public safety & education. We are always on the look-out for timely safety news and reminders to pass on to our readers.

“AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE!” *Ben Franklin*

Stay on top of recalls—NHTSA’s email recall notification



With hundreds of products being recalled each year, how can you stay on top of the ones that affect you and your family?

It is now much simpler due to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) email recall notification. NHTSA has made it faster and easier to receive important email alerts on recalls for vehicles, tires, child restraint systems (car seats), motorcycles, and school buses.

Go to www.nhtsa.gov and click on “Sign Up for Recall Alerts.” Sign up for the recalls you would like and enter your email address.

NHTSA’s privacy policy states that it “will not disclose your email address or use it for any other purpose.”

Safety Reminder: “Look before you lock!”

A nationwide effort sponsored by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Safe Kids Worldwide is underway to prevent child heatstroke deaths. Heatstroke is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle related deaths for children under the age of 14. What can you do?

- Never leave a child alone in a vehicle and make a habit of checking the front and back seats before locking up.
- Ask that caregivers call if a child does not show up for care.
- Do things that remind you that your child is in the car with you, such as placing your work bag in the back seat.

For more information on this important topic go to www.nhtsa.org



Safety Reminder: Do you know when to stop for a school bus?



Monday, August 20 is the first day of classes for Alachua and Marion County Public Schools. This means sharing the road with school buses. Do you know when to stop? Here is the Golden Rule:

You must always stop when you see a school bus that has its lights blinking and stop sign showing, regardless if you are behind the bus or driving in the opposite direction. There is only one exception to this Golden Rule:

You may proceed without stopping if, and only if, you are on a divided roadway traveling in the opposite direction of the stopped bus and there is at least 5 feet of unpaved space, a raised median, or a physical barrier.

Reminder: In 2010, there were 10,228 fatalities in crashes involving a driver with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08% (the legal limit) or higher that’s 31% (1 out of 3) of all traffic fatalities for the year! An average of one alcohol-impaired-driving fatality occurred every 51 minutes in 2010 nationwide.

Do not drink and drive!

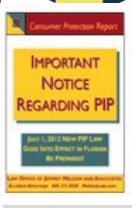
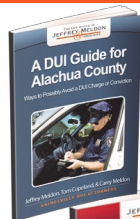
Protect yourself and your family before and after an accident!

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?

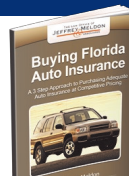
Be safe, educated, adequately insured, and prepared!

Give us a call, available 24/7—Consultations and Case Evaluations are **FREE**.



Help! App

Consumer Protection Accident Guide Book



Insurance Guide

FREE Accident Kit with Camera



1-800-373-8000

How to keep your rubber meeting the road—HYDROPLANING

Summer thunder storms, tropical storms, hurricanes—Florida is a hydroplane hazard zone.

What is hydroplaning? Hydroplaning occurs when tires fail to obtain contact with the pavement due to water building up in front of, under, and behind the tires faster than the tires can “wick” it away. This results in the vehicle being literally lifted from the road by water and sliding on water.

What factors cause hydroplaning? Water depth, vehicle speed, vehicle weight, tire width, and tread depth are the main factors.

What can you do to avoid hydroplaning?

- ◆ **SLOW DOWN ON WET ROADS** so your tires have time to “wick” away water.
- ◆ Avoid deep puddles.
- ◆ Keep your tires inflated to the recommended PSI—an underinflated tire can lose up to 40% of its contact with the road. Do not overload your vehicle.
- ◆ Check your tires’ tread depth frequently. Low tread depth will limit your vehicle’s ability to “wick” away water and keep it on the roadway in wet conditions. Don’t put off replacing old tires.
- ◆ Do not overload your vehicle.

What should you do if you find yourself hydroplaning?

- ◆ Avoid immediate breaking—take your foot off the gas until the car regains traction.
- ◆ Steer straight—hydroplaning tends to cause the steering wheel to jerk and the vehicle to pull toward the puddle.



July/Aug. “ Trivial Pursuit” — Florida Vacation

Q: Florida is the southernmost state in the U.S. ? True/False

Q: What is the largest lake in Florida?

Q: The _____ River is the longest river in Florida (310 miles) and one of the few U.S. rivers that flows north.

Q: Florida is the only state that has two rivers with the same name. What is the name of these rivers?

Q: Greater Miami is the only metropolitan area in the U.S. whose borders encompass two national parks. What are they?

Q: The National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCA) was founded in 1947 on what Florida beach?

Q: What Florida city is known as the “Horse Capital of The World?”

Q: Alligators are only found in two countries in the world. What are they? The alligator is not the State Animal, what is?

Answers: F (Hawaii!), Okeechobee, St. Johns, Withlacoochee, Everglade & Biscayne, Daytona, Ocala, U.S. & China, Florida Panther

Experience, determination, knowledge, and resources DO MATTER!

Recently, a woman secured our services after being **rear-ended by a vehicle going 30 mph while she was stopped at a red traffic light**. The crash resulted in multiple injuries, medical bills, and lost time from work. The insurance company for the at-fault driver first offered an extremely “low-ball” offer due to what appeared to be minimal damage to our client’s car and her prior injuries. **This is what we did:**

- ⇒ **Proved that the** impact to the rear bumper was severe enough to cause damage to the entire frame of the vehicle.
- ⇒ **Hired an expert** radiologist to review our client’s MRI medical records, who determined that our client’s injuries were acute and caused by the crash.

Result: The insurance company then decided to pay our client the policy limit (\$100,000). We then worked to get our client’s outstanding medical balances reduced. Our client was very happy and is now able to obtain future medical care and compensation for her lost wages.

Moral: **Obtaining legal help that has the experience, determination, knowledge, and resources to do what it takes to obtain fair compensation for injuries after an accident really does make a difference in the outcome of your case!**

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

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JUSTICE
SINCE 1971

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A TIME OF LOVING REMEMBRANCE FOR T.G. CLARK

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* wondering about?
The longest, continuous running legal affairs program in the southeast United States. (877) 975-9825

Important dates for the "new year"

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

Alachua & Marion Public Schools Calendar 2012-2013

Aug. 20.....First Day of School
Sept. 3.....Labor Day Holiday
Nov. 9.....UF Homecoming (Alachua County)
Nov. 11.....Veterans' Day Holiday
Nov. 22-23.....Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 20-Jan. 2.....Winter Holiday
Jan. 3.....Classes Resume
Jan. 21.....Martin Luther King Holiday
Feb. 18.....President's Day Holiday
March 25-29.....Spring Break
May 27.....Memorial Day Holiday
June 4.....Last Day of Classes (Alachua County)
June 6.....Last Day of Classes (Marion County)

Teacher Work Day Holidays for Marion and Alachua Counties vary and are not included in this chart.

Gator Football Schedule 2012

Sept. 1.....Bowling Green @ The Swamp
Sept. 8.....Texas A&M @ Texas A&M *
Sept. 15.....Tennessee @ Tennessee *
Sept. 22.....Kentucky @ The Swamp *
Oct. 6.....LSU @ The Swamp *
Oct. 13.....Vanderbilt @ Vanderbilt *
Oct. 20.....South Carolina @ South Carolina *
Oct. 27.....Georgia @ Jacksonville, FL—3:30 *
Nov. 3.....Missouri @ The Swamp *
Nov. 10.....Louisiana—Lafayette @ The Swamp
Nov. 17.....Jacksonville State @ The Swamp
Nov. 24.....FSU @ FSU
Dec. 1.....SEC Championship @ Atlanta—4:00

* Conference Game

All games are on Saturdays. Other than the kick-off times stated in this chart, they are TBA.

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