



MELDON

LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

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

Office Employee Job Evaluations

1. Create a new title to make him feel appreciated, e.g., jester, dunce, former employee, etc.
2. This employee should go far—and the sooner he starts, the better.
3. Got into the gene pool when the lifeguard wasn't looking.
4. I would not allow this employee to breed.
5. Donated his brain to science before he was done using it.
6. A prime candidate for natural de-selection.
7. He would be out of his depth in a parking lot puddle.
8. This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.
9. Needs more to do. Might I be so bold as to suggest looking for another job.
10. Wheel is turning, but the hamsters are all dead.
11. Fell out of the family tree, most likely on his head.

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June—Happy Fathers Day to all Dads!

Father's Day is June 19—a day to honor all Dads. (A perfect day to spend time with your father and appreciate all he does for you.) A father may be more than the biological parental source of our being. A father is the person who cares and provided for us. It is the man who helps to set the standards, the family values, and the example. So, it is important to add to this group of "Dads," step fathers, and other men who willingly and eagerly accept and cherish the role. In honor of Dads—"Dad-isms:"

- "Because I'm the Dad, that's why!"
- "Go ask your mother..."
- "You make a better door than a window!"
- "Do you think money grows on trees?"



Scholar Athlete Banquet—Congratulations to all!

On May 24, Jeffrey Meldon hosted the Annual Jeffrey Meldon/TV 20 Scholar Athlete Banquet at the Hilton UF Conference Center in Gainesville. At the banquet, each of the 37 deserving Scholar Athletes of the Week were individually honored and received an engraved plaque and \$100 scholarship. The event was covered by TV 20 and featured on the late news. The evening was highlighted with the announcement of the male and female Scholar Athletes of the Year, who were both awarded a glass trophy and a \$1,000 scholarship.

This year's Scholar Athletes of the Year are:

- **Timmy Jernigan from Columbia Co. High for Football.** As one of the most sought after defensive players in recent history, Timmy earned a scholarship to play for Jimbo Fisher at Florida State University.
- **Cartaesha Macklin from Lafayette High for Basketball.** She broke the school's single-season scoring record with 849 total points. Cartaesha will be taking her game to the next level at Southern Illinois University.

Congratulations to all 37 Scholar Athletes!

The Jeffrey Meldon/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 featured on the Thursday evening TV 20 sport's news.



Angelo Caruso (TV 20), Timmy Jernigan, Cartaesha Macklin, Jeffrey Meldon, Carey Meldon

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.

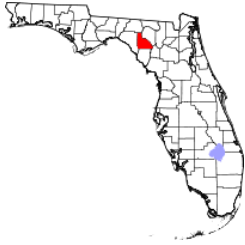
Consultations are always free and welcome.

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

Community Spotlight: Lafayette County—a dry county with history!

Here are some interesting tidbits and facts about Lafayette County:

- Lafayette County was created in 1856 (pronounced “la fay et” or “la fet”, not “laf ee et”).
- It was named in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette, a French citizen who rendered assistance to the colonies and served with George Washington in the American Revolution.
- The county is the **second least populated county in the state**, having one more resident, in the 2000 census, than Liberty County.
- **Mayo is the county’s only incorporated town and its County Seat**, since the courthouse in New Troy burned down in 1892. New Troy is now a “ghost town.”
- **Lafayette County is a prohibition county, or entirely “dry.”**
- The Hal W. Adams Bridge, built in 1947, spans the Suwannee River. It is located three miles north of Mayo and is Florida’s first suspension bridge.

Jeffrey Meldon/TV20 Scholar Athletes of the Week: Congratulations!

Every week during the school year, a deserving high school senior is awarded the “Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Week” title, a \$100 scholarship, and a plaque. The award is announced on TV 20’s Thursday evening sports news @ 6:00 pm and includes a video clip of the student and their achievement. **Here are the recent winners:**

April 15—**Shelby Morgan** from Santa Fe High for Softball—“Shelby may be shy off the field, but on the diamond, she turns into a fierce competitor. She has a perfect 4.0 GPA and is only the second pitcher in Raider softball to earn a D-1 scholarship.”

April 21—**Jaymi Bautista-Geiger** from Oak Hall High for Softball—“Jaymi is one of the top pitchers in the area, earning an athletic scholarship to play at Santa Clara University, where she plans to enroll in pre-med and become an Orthopedic surgeon.”

April 28—**Manny Kurki-Fox** from P.K.Young for Baseball—“Manny’s always been a quiet kid, but there is nothing quiet about the way he plays baseball. As shortstop, he went 20-straight games without committing an error, while excelling in the classroom.”

May 5—**Bo Beauchamp** from Chiefland High for Baseball—“Bo has been a starter since 10th grade. Bo takes the field for the Indians as a first baseman or as a starter pitcher, going 7-1 this season. Bo also maintains a great record in the classroom with a 3.8 GPA.”

*With the Scholar Athlete program finished for the school year, we thought it would be a perfect opportunity to acknowledge other deserving youths in our community that often don’t get enough recognition. **Please contact us at www.MeldonLaw.com to nominate your admirable young person, and make sure to tell us why. (Be a braggart!) Next month we will honor Lindsay Wheeler, who was nominated by her grandmother for all of her outstanding accomplishments. “Young people can be powerful and amazing.” Alice Wheeler, Lindsay’s grandmother***

Safety Alert: Button batteries present a choking hazard—keep them locked up!



Add button batteries to your checklist of dangerous products to keep under lock and key.

About 3,500 people a year, especially children, accidentally swallow “button” batteries that get their name from their small round shape. Ingestion may cause choking, windpipe blockage, tissue damage, “alkaline” poisoning, or even death.

Button batteries are found in hearing aids, hand-held game, toys, singing and recordable greeting cards, watches, light-up jewelry, and other products.

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: *Steps to Survive a Vehicle Recall—err on the side of repair!*

While a vehicle recall is not a reason to panic, it is a time to take action. We suggest—err on the side of repair (it is free.)

Generally, automakers issue a recall because a vehicle is defective and may cause injury—or worse. Last year, nearly 20 million vehicles were recalled in the U.S., but as many as 30% of owners failed to get the necessary repairs.

While many owners receive a recall letter in the mail, some do not. So, don't wait for a letter—your life may be at stake. **Stay informed, and follow these recommendations:**

- 1. If you get a letter, call the dealership.** Schedule an appointment to get your vehicle evaluated and repaired as soon as possible. While not every vehicle subject to recall is affected, your vehicle could have a major, life-threatening defect. Plus, repairs are free.
- 2. Don't wait for a recall letter.** Often, there is lag time between when the media picks up on a recall and when the automaker sends out notices. If your car is showing defect symptoms, bring it to the dealer.
- 3. Check www.Safecar.gov for recalls.** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) posts all vehicle recalls for consumers. Enter your car's model, make, and year for a complete recall history. Sign up for NHTSA's recall email alerts.
- 4. Check the dealership's "bulletin."** Sometimes, cars have problems that don't necessitate a nationwide recall. In this case, an automaker will notify dealerships with "technical service bulletins" to check at the time of service. Review these with your dealership.



"Trivial Pursuit" for June... *Roses, Fathers, and June*

- Q: In 1924, President _____ proclaimed the third Sunday in June as _____.
- Q: Roses are the Father's Day flower—a _____ rose for a father that is living and a _____ rose for a father that is deceased.
- Q: The first Father's Day was held in Spokane, Washington, in 1910. Sonora Smart Dodd, who created Father's Day in honor of her father that raised her, chose the month of _____ because her father was born in the month of _____.
- Q: _____ is National Rose Month in the United States.
- Q: _____ was the first U.S. rose breeder.



Answers: Calvin Coolidge, Father's Day, red, white, June, June, June, June, June, George Washington

Common Office Question—"When will my case settle and for how much?"

To even begin to formulate an answer to the question of an individual case value or settlement time frame, **there are many questions to be answered first, such as:**

- **How much insurance is available?** A case may be worth \$100,000, but if there is only \$10,000 of insurance, probably it's worth \$10,000.
- **How serious are the injuries?** If there is \$250,000 of insurance, and injuries are minor, the case is worth far less than the insurance.
- **How much damage was done to the vehicle?** This often requires pictures and investigation.
- **How much are a person's medical bills and future medical bills?** Medical bills can often be negotiated.
- **How much past or future income was lost because of the accident?** This is another factor that requires time and investigation.
- **Were there any prior or preexisting medical conditions?** Often preexisting conditions require consultations with medical experts.
- **Who was at fault in the accident?** In Florida, more than one person can be at fault in an accident and assessed a percentage of liability.
- **Has Maximum Medical Improvement (MMI) been reached?** Once MMI is reached, the long term affects of the crash can be assessed. However, it is very important to consult with an attorney immediately after an accident—do not wait until MMI is reached.

Note: A lawyer's experience and skill in: navigating complex accident insurance; investigating; negotiating; and litigating, make a big difference in the outcome of your accident case. Experience counts!

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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Ask Jeffrey: *Can I legally "ride free" in Florida?*

While Florida law respects a motorcycle rider's choice to "ride free" without a helmet, I urge all motorcyclists and passengers to wear state-approved safety helmets.

Since Florida's repeal of the Universal Helmet Law in 2000, the state has two helmet requirements:

1. A motorcycle rider that is **under the age of 21** must wear a state-approved helmet.
2. A biker **21 or older that chooses not to wear a helmet**, must carry an insurance policy providing at least \$10,000 in medical benefits.

Be aware when crossing state lines—there are 20 states and Canada that require helmet use for all motorcyclists, including our neighbors: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

I **strongly urge all riders** to carry full insurance coverage, including: Uninsured Motorists Coverage to protect themselves from another driver's carelessness; Medical Payment coverage of \$50,000; and medical insurance to protect yourself no matter who was at fault.

If in an accident while "riding free," you are three times more likely to suffer a serious brain injury than when riding with a helmet. A hospital bill for a serious head injury could cost more than \$200,000, not including rehabilitation, future medical expenses, and lost wages.




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

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