



MELDON

LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

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

Stupid Criminals

Arizona: A man walked into a local Kwik Mart and asked for all the money in the cash drawer. Apparently, the take was too small so he tied up the store clerk and worked the counter himself for three hours until police showed up and grabbed him.

Georgia: Investigating a purse snatching, detectives picked up a man who fit the thief's description and drove him back to the scene. He was told to exit the car and face the victim for an I.D. The suspect carefully eyed the victim and blurted out, "Yeah, that's the woman I robbed."

Seattle: When a man attempted to siphon gas from a motor home he got more than he intended. Police arrived on the scene to find an ill man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gas and plugged his hose into the motor home's sewage tank by mistake. The vehicle owner declined to press charges, saying it was the best laugh he'd ever had.

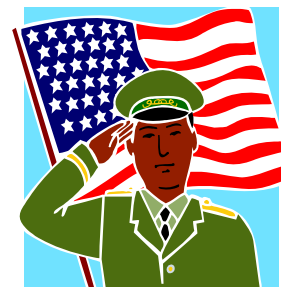
May Volume III, Issue VII

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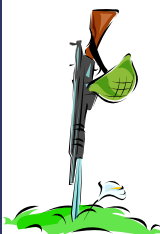
May—Please join us in saluting our soldiers!

May brings us opportunities to honor our soldiers, fallen and serving.

Memorial Day is May 30, 2011. Formerly known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day commemorates U.S. soldiers who died in our nation's service. First enacted to honor Union and Confederate soldiers after the Civil War, it was extended after World War I to honor all Americans who have died in all wars.



To remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed in December of 2000, asking that at 3 p.m. local time, all Americans "voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to Taps."



Armed Forces Day is May 21, 2011. Created in 1949, this day honors all men and women, who serve in the United States armed forces. Prior to 1949, each branch of the military had its own celebration day.

Meet Carolyn—Working to keep insurance companies in check!

"What I like most about my profession is working to keep insurance companies from taking advantage of injured victims. What I like most about working at Jeffrey Meldon and Associates is the comradery and teamwork at the Office and the opportunity to help people hurt in all kinds of accidents." Carolyn



Carolyn Watson,
Case Manager

Originally from Manhattan, New York, Carolyn moved to South Florida and eventually to the Gainesville area nearly 30 years ago. Carolyn has been a Paralegal Case Manager in our office for 15 years and had 7 years of legal assisting experience before joining our Team. Additionally, Carolyn has experience in trial litigation, executive assisting, medical practice administration, and clinical research.

"Carolyn has constant dedication to her clients and is always willing to go the extra mile to make sure our clients get the best result possible. Her broad base of experience makes her an invaluable asset to the office and our personal injury clients." 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

800 373 8000



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

Community Spotlight: Taylor County—fishing, hunting & nature.

Here are some interesting tidbits and facts about Taylor County:

- Taylor County, created in 1856, is named for **Zachary Taylor**, twelfth president of the United States, who served from 1849 to 1851.
- **Of Taylor County's 1,232 square miles, more than 15% is water.**
- **Perry, the County Seat, was named for the American Civil War general, Matthew Perry**, the 14th Governor of Florida. Perry is 100% land, surrounded by beautiful coast line, rivers, and natural wood lands.
- **Perry, the only incorporated city in Taylor County**, was a railroad boom town in the 1900's.
- **Steinhatchee, which means "Dead Man's River" or "Dead Man's Bay,"** is a picturesque small gulf community that played an integral part in the foresting industry in the 1900's. Now it is know for its fishing, crabbing, and scalloping.
- Hampton Springs, located four miles from Perry, was the site of the famous Hampton Springs Hotel.

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:**

March 18—**Krystal Crawford** from Hawthorne High for Softball—"This K.C. does her Sunshine on and off the field. After seeing her first Gator softball game when she was in the 3rd grade, she knew this is what she wanted to do."

March 24—**Taylor Asbell** from PK Younge for Softball—"Taylor has been a solid player and starter for many years and sets a good example on and off the field with a winning season and an unweighted GPA of 3.8."

March 31—**Alexander Sappington** from Buchholz High for Tennis—"A hit for the Bobcats tennis team and a whiz kid that is headed to the Ivy League, accepted to both Yale and Princeton."

April 7—**Sarena Humphrey** from Gainesville High for Track and Basketball—"This dual athlete runs all over the place. Sarena does the extra push in the classroom too so she can get an athletic scholarship for college and join her friends."

We are proud to announce that Jeffrey Meldon will host the Annual Scholar Athlete Banquet on May 24th at the Hilton UF Conference Center in Gainesville at 7:30 pm. At the banquet, the 37 Scholar Athletes of the Week from this school year will be individually honored and receive awards. This exciting evening will be highlighted with the announcement of the male and female Scholar Athletes of the Year. The event will be covered by WCJB/TV20 and featured on the late news at 11:00 p.m. Check it out and help us celebrate these deserving seniors and their families.

Safety Reminder: Protect your brain! 5 Tips to prevent TBI.



The number one cause of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is motor vehicle crashes. Here are five ways to minimize the risk of brain injury on the road:

1. **Wear your seatbelt** every time you get on the road, and make sure everyone in your car does too.
2. **Restrain babies and young children** in age-appropriate and properly installed safety seats.
3. **Do not drive under the influence** of drugs or alcohol.
4. **Do not drive distracted** (texting, celling, etc.) Keep both hands on the wheel, eyes on the road, and pay attention to your driving and the road.
5. **Wear appropriate protective head gear**, (helmet) when riding a motorcycle, bike, scooter, or ATV.

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

FREE
Accident Kit
with Camera

FLORIDA LAW
ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY
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1-800-373-8000

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

Office Blog: *Cycling 101—know Florida’s rules of the road and be safe!*

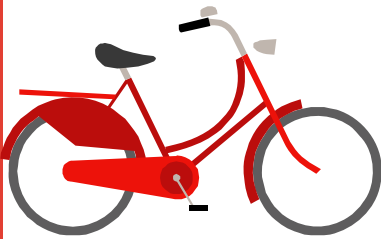
May is time to dust off the bike and review Florida’s rules and regulations for cyclists safety. Be safe and have fun.

Under Florida law, a bicycle is considered a vehicle and, therefore, cyclists are accountable for traffic laws just like cars and trucks. This means that a bicyclist must:

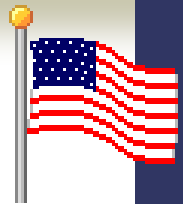
- come to a complete stop at a stop sign;
- obey all traffic lights;
- ride with the flow of traffic; and
- comply with DUI laws—no drinking and cycling.

Florida and Gainesville’s key laws for cyclists that apply on public roadways, sidewalks, and bike paths:

- A bike rider under 16 must wear a properly fitted helmet.
- A bike must have a permanently attached seat.
- A bike may only carry the number of people it was designed or equipped for—**one seat, one rider.**
- A bike must have brakes that allow the rider to stop within 25 ft. when going at a speed of 10 m.p.h. on dry, level, clean pavement.
 - A cyclist must keep at least one hand on the handle bars at all times.
 - A cyclist must use appropriate hand signals to communicate turning within 100 ft of the turn.
 - Between sunset and sunrise, a bike must have a front lamp of white light (visible for at least 500 feet) and a rear reflector of red light (visible for at least 600 feet.)
 - When riding on a roadway, cyclists may not ride more than two abreast.
 - A bike must be equipped with a bell, and the cyclist must use it to warn pedestrians when passing. Cyclists must also yield to pedestrians.
 - A cyclist may not wear headphones, headsets, or other listening devices while riding.



“Trivial Pursuit” for May... *Military and Flag Etiquette Trivia*

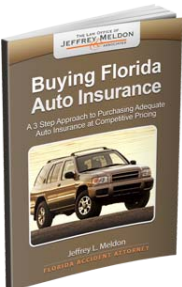


- Q: There are 5 branches of the U.S. military—The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and _____ .
- Q: The Department of Defense is headed by a civilian, the _____ , who is appointed by the President.
- Q: The _____ is the oldest and largest U.S. Military service, officially established by the Continental Congress on June 14, _____. This branch of the military is supported by two Reserve Forces, the _____, which is “owned” and managed by the federal government, and the _____, that is “owned” by each state.
- Q: On Memorial Day, the proper way to fly our flag is to hoist it to the peak and then lower it to _____ until noon. The flag is then to be raised again at _____ from noon till sunset.
- Q: When a flag is so worn that it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country it should be destroyed by _____.

Answers: Coast Guard, Secretary of Defense, Army, 1775, Army Reserves, Army National Guard, half staff, full staff, burning

A Note from Carolyn—I am here to help you!

As a paralegal in the Personal Injury Department, I help to make sure insurance companies are held accountable in the event of a serious accident. Recently, we are finding more and more people lowering their auto insurance coverage because of the economy’s effect on their personal financial situation. In addition, others have inadequate coverage and only find out when it is too late to do anything about it, after a bad crash.



Sometimes people get upset after they get in a bad accident, and we have to explain we have no control over what type of coverage they choose to buy or what the other driver has. We can only enforce the coverage for the policy/s that exist and try to get the best settlement possible.

I urge you to know what kind of coverage you have on your policy and review it against the recommendations that Jeffrey spells out in his book—today. I am here to help you. If you do not have adequate insurance, we may not be able to help you when you need it most—after a serious accident.

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: *By law, do I have to put a fence around my pool?*

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



Pool safety is an important topic in Florida. The answer to your question is, no. However, another "safety device" may be required by law, depending on when the pool was installed.

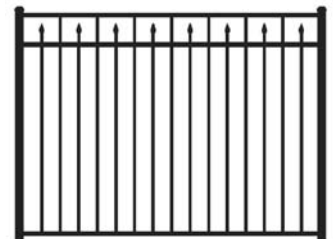
- The Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act states that if a home pool is constructed on or after Oct. 1, 2000, it must be equipped with a statutorily approved safety device, such as: a 4-foot fence, a pool cover, or door and window alarms on the house.

Here are some facts to help inform you in your decision:

- Florida had the highest rate of unintentional toddler drowning deaths in the U.S. from 1999 to 2003.
- In the U.S., drowning is the second leading cause of child death, second to motor vehicle accidents.
- Drowning may occur in a matter of minutes and can result in death or serious lifelong injury.
- Most toddler drowning deaths occur in a home pool—with mom or dad present.
- Medically frail senior citizens are also at risk for drowning.

While residential pools constructed before Oct. 1, 2000 are exempt from statutory safety requirements, I urge you to please do all you can to protect our young children and elderly.

In perspective, while it may cost some money to "drown proof" a home pool, the financial and emotional savings could prove well worth the investment when a life is saved.



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