



MELDON

LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

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MeldonLaw.com

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

A lawyer was filling out a job application when he came to the question, "Have you ever been arrested?"

He answered, "No" to the question.

The next question which was intended for those who answered yes to the preceding question, was, "Why?" The lawyer answered, "Never got caught."

A lawyer was on his cell phone with a locksmith.

"I locked my keys in my sports car!" said the nervous lawyer.

"No problem, I should be there in about an hour," replied the locksmith.

"Do you think you can make it a little sooner?" pleaded the lawyer. "My top is down and it is starting to rain."

Warning signs that you might need a different lawyer:

1. Your lawyer tells you that his last good case was Budweiser.
2. When prosecutors see your lawyer, they high-five each other.
3. Your lawyer picks the jury by playing "duck-duck-goose."
4. A prison guard is shaving your head.

October—A Busier Month Than You May Think!

October may seem like a slow month with Halloween at the end of the month and a federal holiday, Columbus Day, on October 8. However, October is a busy month with several important national safety campaigns that families should celebrate together.

Fire Prevention Week begins on the 7th, a good time to check your fire escape routes, smoke detectors, and practice a fire escape plan with your family.

National Teen Driver Safety Week begins on the 14th, a good time to sit down with your young driver and review your household rules and consequences for breaking them.

Impaired Driving Prevention Campaign Week begins on the 25th, a time for all families and individuals to reflect on the dangers of drinking and driving.

[Please see pages 2 and 3 for more information on these potentially life saving weeks!](#)

Office Spotlight—Meet Gracie Copeland



"As the new receptionist at the Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon and Associates, my primary responsibilities are to answer the phones, greet clients and visitors, and assist in the office operating smoothly.

I started working in my husband's law office over 20 years ago. I took a break when our son started school to be a stay-at-home mom. I volunteered at his schools and was a sports mom for 12 years. I started working here a year ago when our friend and co-worker, TG Clark, the receptionist for over 12 years, became ill.

My husband, Tom Copeland (who is an Associate at the Firm), and I recently celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary and are proud parents of our twenty year-old son, Logan, who attends Santa Fe College and lives with us and our menagerie of animals in northern Alachua County.

I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, whether it is boating, fishing, attending Gator games, or riding our motorcycle." **Gracie Copeland**

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 falls, as well as DUI and criminal representation for Alachua County. **Available to 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 along to our readers.

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

Fire Safety Reminder—Have 2 Ways Out!



October 7 - 13 is National Fire Prevention Week. This year’s theme, “Have 2 Ways Out!,” focuses on the importance of fire escape planning and practice.

The National Fire Prevention Association reminds everyone that it is important to, “clear your escape routes and make sure you have 2 ways out.”

For more information visit, www.nfpa.org National Fire Protection Association The authority on fire, electrical, and building safety

Jeffrey Meldon/TV 20 Scholar-Athletes-of-the-Week Winners!

The Jeffrey Meldon/TV 20 Scholar Athlete Program is celebrating its 16th year! 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 at 6:00 p.m. and includes a video clip of the student and his or her achievement. The year ends with a sports banquet honoring each scholar athlete, at which a male and female “Scholar-Athlete-of-the-Year” are selected and awarded a \$1,000 scholarship and trophy. In existence since 1997, this is one of Jeffrey’s most favorite community services!

Here are the recent winners—congratulations!

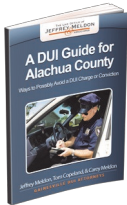
September 7—Chris Thompson from Gainesville High for Football—“Chris is a hard worker and tough kid who has worked for everything he has gotten. Chris will be heading to UF next fall on a football scholarship.”

August 31—McKenzie Hollen from Oak Hall for Volleyball—“McKenzie’s hustle and leadership makes up for her lacking in height.”

September 13—Reggie Wilkerson from North Marion for Football—“Reggie is a four-star cornerback who is always ready to go, right now for the Colts and next year as a University of Georgia Bulldog.”

Halloween Safety Reminder: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over!

“The scariest part of Halloween isn’t the spooky costumes and scary pranks. It is the fact that too many impaired drivers don’t plan ahead and end up making the roads scarier than a horror show,” according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Local police departments add, “If you really want to be scared this Halloween, try getting pulled over by a police car that suddenly appears out of nowhere.”



Halloween Impaired Driving Prevention Campaign is October 25 - November 4, 2012.

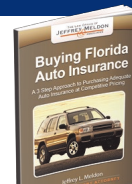
Do not drink and drive . Plan a safe way home before partying. If you see a drunk driver on the road, call 911.

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 each year.

How can you protect yourself and family?

Be safe, educated, adequately insured, and prepared!



FREE Accident Kit with Camera

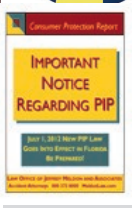


Insurance Guide 1-800-373-8000

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Help! App



Consumer Protection Accident Guide Book

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

National Teen Driver Safety Week— *Parents, Lay Down The Rules*

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) National Teen Driver Safety Week is October 14 - 20, 2012.

Facts: Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers. Mile for mile, teenagers are involved in three times the number of fatal crashes than all other drivers. Research shows that certain behaviors are at the core of teen-related crashes. Inexperience and immaturity combined with speed, drinking and driving, not wearing seatbelts, and distracted driving compound this problem.

NHTSA has developed a four tiered strategy to prevent motor vehicle-related deaths and injuries involving teen drivers:

1. Increase seat belt use;
2. Implementing graduated driver licensing;
3. Reducing teens' access to alcohol; and
4. Parental responsibility.

Here are NHTSA's recommendations to parents with teenage drivers for laying down the rules:



- **Absolutely no alcohol**
- **Always buckle up**
- **No celling or texting while driving**
- **10 p.m. curfew**
- **No more than one passenger at a time**
- **Follow the state's Graduated Driver Licensing law**
- **Set and enforce your house rules and consequences**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
PLEASE VISIT, www.nhtsa.gov**



October "Trivial Pursuit"— *Do you know your fire prevention facts?*

- Q: It is recommended that you practice your home fire escape drill every _____.
- Q: All smoke alarms should be replaced every _____ years.
- Q: If a fire breaks out in your home, you have how long to get out once the smoke alarm sounds?
- Q: _____ has been the leading cause of reported home fires and related injuries since 1990.
- Q: On average, there are _____ home candle fires reported per day.
- Q: Working smoke detectors cut your risk of dying in a home fire by _____ %.
- Q: How often is it recommended that you test your smoke detector by pressing the test button on the alarm?
- Q: How many ways out of each room should you have in case of a home fire? Why?
- Q: Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the _____ Fire of 1871.
- Q: In 1920, President _____ issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation.



Answers: 6 months, 10, A few minutes, cooking, 35, 50, once a week, 2, in case one is blocked, Great Chicago, Woodrow Wilson

Case Study—*Client injured in near crash gets justice!*

The story: Recently, a client of ours was riding in a car being driven by her friend. After stopping at a stop sign, the friend entered the roadway to make a left hand turn. As she began crossing the road, she noticed a car that had the right-of-way coming right at them at 55 mph. The oncoming car slammed on its brakes. Our client's friend slammed on the brakes hard enough to avoid a crash but also to cause our client to tear a rotator cuff tendon in her right shoulder which required surgery.

The justice: Even without a police crash report, we were able to get PIP benefits for our client. In addition, we made a full recovery of available Bodily Injury Liability (BI) insurance benefits from the friend who had been negligently driving. We also obtained all available Underinsured Motorist Coverage Insurance (UM) against our client's policy.

How were we able to do this without a police report? Fortunately, our client contacted us soon after the crash, so we were able to reconstruct the accident scene and do further investigations.

Morals of the story: #1. Contact a lawyer ASAP after an accident before important evidence is lost. **#2.** Carry adequate insurance protection.

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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Announcements and a Correction

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



Gator Football Schedule Correction

The October 20 Gator game against South Carolina is at home in the Swamp, not at South Carolina.



Announcement

The Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon & Associates now has an Ocala office for consultations
808 East Fort King Street
Ocala, Florida
800-373-8000

Announcement

FLORIDA ACCIDENT GUIDE

We are proud to announce that our new, improved, and more user-friendly Florida Accident Guide will be available soon.



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