



MELDON

LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON

Jokes To Make You Feel Better About Your Computer Skills

Tech Support: What kind of computer do you have?

Customer: A white one.

Tech support: Click on the "My Computer" icon to the left of the screen.

Customer: Your left or my left?

A female customer called the Canon help desk with a problem with her printer...

Tech support: Are you running it under Windows?

Customer: No my desk is next to the door, but that is a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window, and his printer is working fine.

Tech support: How may I help you?

Customer: I'm writing my first email.

Tech support: OK, and what seems to be the problem?

Customer: Well, I have the letter "a" in the address, but how do I get the little circle around it?

Customer: My keyboard is not working anymore.

Tech Support: Are you sure it is plugged into the computer?

Customer: No. I can't get behind the computer.

Tech Support: Pick up your keyboard and walk 10 paces backwards.

Customer: OK.

Tech support: Did the keyboard come with you?

Customer: Yes.

Tech support: That means that the keyboard is not plugged in.

Tech support: Okay Bob, press the Control and Escape keys at the same time to bring up the Task List. Now type the letter "P" to bring up the Program Manager.

Customer: I don't have a P.

Tech support: On your keyboard, Bob.

Customer: What do you mean?

Tech support: "P"...on your keyboard, Bob.

Customer: I'M NOT GOING TO DO THAT!

(Our thanks to Bob Meldon, Jeffrey's brother, for sending us these jokes!)

April 2012 Volume IV, Issue IV

MeldonLaw.com

April—What occurs once to three times a year?

Answer: Friday the 13th. This year, Friday the 13th occurs in January, April, and July.

If you are superstitious, then Friday the 13th is a day you may not look forward to. Some say when the 13th falls on a Friday, bad things are likely to happen. Historically, the number 13 and Fridays are seen as unlucky. **For example:**

- Many buildings and skyscrapers do not have a 13th floor.
- Many people do not allow 13 people to sit at a table.
- Captains would not go out to sea with a crew of 12. (12 + 1 = 13)



If you live in fear of the number 13, you suffer from **Triskaidekaphobia**.

Office Spotlight: The 2012 PIP Reform Bill...



Florida law requires \$10,000 of personal injury protection insurance (PIP) to cover 80% of your medical bills and 60% of your lost wages (up to \$10,000) if you are involved in a motor vehicle accident, no matter who was at fault for the crash. Florida passed the country's first PIP law in 1972 and it has been revised many times since.

The 2012 PIP reform bill was recently passed and is expected to go into effect on July 1, 2012. **Here are some of the more important features of the law that will affect you:**

- **You must be** seen at the ER or by a doctor within 14 days of your accident.
- **Your doctor must** determine that you have a medical condition resulting from the accident that could cause serious jeopardy to your health.
- **Your PIP benefits** may be limited to \$2,500 rather than \$10,000 if your doctor does not believe you meet all the criteria.
- **The insurance company** can now more easily limit the amount of treatment you receive and the duration of that treatment.
- Massage therapists and acupuncture physicians **are excluded as PIP providers**.

These changes will have little affect on people who break bones or require emergency surgery. However, this law will directly affect people who suffer neck, back, knee, shoulder, and similar injuries.

(Please see page 3 for information on how you can protect yourself.)

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 can.

* 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*

Turn it off, Silence it, Put it in the Trunk

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

28% of all crashes, or 1.6 million crashes, each year are caused by drivers using their handheld or hands-free cell phones and texting while driving, making it the #1 driving distraction. The NSC says,

“On the Road, Off the Phone”



Jeffrey Meldon/TV20 Scholar Athlete of the Week Winners!

The Jeffrey Meldon/TV 20 Scholar Athlete Program—celebrating its 15th 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 @ 6:00 pm 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 favorite community services!

Here are the recent winners—congratulations!

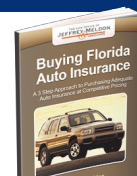
- Jan 26—**Samantha Bruce** from Bell High for Basketball—**“Samantha is one of the Bulldogs’ toughest on the court and in the classroom.”**
- Feb 2—**Megan Menton** from Trinity Catholic for Soccer—**“Megan’s been bringing home A’s in the classroom; she also brings home wins.”**
- Feb 9—**Onteria Maddox** from Buchholz for Basketball—**“Onteria may be only 5’3”, but she is a key component on the court.”**
- Feb 16—**Detereon Ross** from Williston for Basketball—**“The soft spoken guard has risen to the challenge in the classroom and the court.”**
- Feb 23—**Lasharrah Nattiel** from Newberry for Basketball—**“Lasharrah gets the points on the court and takes pride in her GPA numbers.”**
- March 1—**Weston Clarke** from Buchholz for Baseball—**“Weston’s batting average excels along with his GPA of 4.1.”**
- March 8—**Miranda Cullen** from Eastside for Lacrosse—**“Miranda was last year’s first team all-area defender; she also sports a 4.4 GPA.”**

Heads up—Consuming energy drinks with alcohol makes a person 3x’s more likely to be highly intoxicated and 4x’s more likely to drive impaired compared to someone who only consumed alcohol. Essentially, combining alcohol and caffeine tricks the brain into believing it isn’t as drunk as it is.
***Energy drinks mixed with alcohol result in wide-awake drunkenness—which leads to riskier behavior.**

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?**

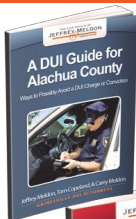
Be safe, educated, adequately insured, and prepared!



Insurance Guide



1-800-373-8000



Consumer Protection Accident Guide Book



Now available on audio CD!



Help! App

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

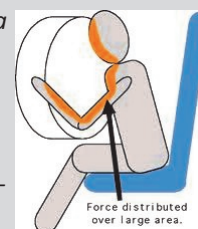
3 Things you should know about airbags to prevent injury or death!

Airbags—soft pillows to land against in a crash, have been around for many years. The first patent for an inflatable crash landing device for airplanes was filed during World War II. The first commercial airbags were installed in automobiles in the 1980s. Since 1998, all new cars sold in the U.S are required to have airbags on both driver and passenger sides. Statistics show that airbags reduce the chance of dying in a head-on collision by 30%.

Airbags have also killed and injured drivers and passengers. However, these airbag-related deaths and injuries were not necessarily the fault of the airbag. **How can you avoid being injured or killed by an airbag?** Three things you should know:

#1. The majority of deaths from airbags occurred when the occupant was not buckled up. Airbags are a secondary or supplemental restraint system—seat belts are the primary restraint system. Airbags are meant to be used with a lap belt and shoulder harness. *Always buckle up, especially when an airbag is present.*

#2. People under 5'4" are also at risk for injuries from airbag deployment because they may sit too close to the steering wheel. Airbags deploy in 1/10 of a second at 200 mph. If a driver is sitting too close, the airbag will be a powerful punch to the face and neck. *Make sure your seat is far enough back from the steering wheel so a piece of standard printing paper can fit between you and the wheel lengthwise; or when you stretch your arms out straight, your wrists should lie on top of the wheel.*



#3. Babies in rear-facing car seats in the front seat are at risk of being killed by a deploying airbag hitting the back of their necks. *Babies and children belong in the back seat. If that arrangement is not possible, it is recommended that you turn off the passenger side airbag.*

April “Trivial Pursuit” - Honor Thy Mother—Mother Earth

Q: Earth Day always falls on _____. The first Earth Day was in 1970 and was directly associated with the formation of what federal agency?

Q: The first Proclamation of Earth Day was made by the city of _____, the City of Saint Francis, patron saint of animals and the environment.



Q: Earth Day is often celebrated in conjunction with _____, which is always the last Friday in April, making it a great time to plant trees. The Latin word for “tree” is _____.

Q: Florida’s state tree is the _____, also known as the Cabbage Palmetto; it is the most widely distributed palm tree in Florida. This palm tree can grow up to _____ feet in height!

Q: Florida’s state flower is the _____, and is one of the most fragrant flowers in Florida. Due to Florida’s state flower, Florida’s state beverage is _____.

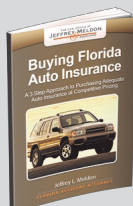
Q: April’s flower is the _____, which symbolizes innocence, purity, and new beginnings.



Answers: April 22, EPA, San Francisco, Arbor Day, Arbor, Sabal Palm, 20, Orange Blossom, Orange Juice, daisy

What can you do to protect yourself from the new PIP law? (cont. from pg.1)

In light of the new 2012 Personal Injury Protection (PIP) reform bill—which is expected to go into effect on July 1 of this year and could greatly decrease your medical care coverage—I recommend the following to protect you and your family:



Purchase increased medical payments coverage insurance (med pay). I recommend at least \$50,000. This coverage will pay your medical bills related to injuries suffered in a motor vehicle accident. In addition, it will be more difficult for your insurance company to “cut off” the benefits you are entitled to.

For more insurance information, please see my free insurance guide book, available on line at MeldonLaw.com or by calling my office at 800 373 8000. *(We will be continuing to keep our readers updated on the changes.)*

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

THE LAW OFFICE OF
JEFFREY MELDON
ASSOCIATES

TOLL FREE
1-800-373-8000

703 NORTH MAIN STREET SUITE A
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32601



MELDON LAW TALK NEWSLETTER

Phone: (352) 373-8000
Toll Free: (800) 373-8000
Fax: (352) 373-8400
Email:
jmeldon@meldonlaw.com
On the web:
MeldonLaw.com

INFORMATION ON THE NEW PIP LAW CHANGES INSIDE!



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

LIKE MUD? Mud bogging—safety factors and reminders

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



What is mud bogging: Mud bogging, popular in the South, is a back-wood or mud park sport in which four-wheel-drive vehicles, which are specifically modified for “mudding”, race or drive through a deep pit of mud. Winners of the race are generally determined by the distance traveled though the pit. Today, mud bogging has gone from back-yard mud holes to events at outdoor family fun parks that host near 40,000 for a weekend event (which include bathing facilities.)

Safety: Mud bogging parks have rules regulating the entrant’s vehicles. These regulations range from a 6 foot antenna whip flag and having both front and back tow hooks. Most parks do not allow pets, glass containers, or alcohol. The American Mud Racing Association has additional rules, including: a 4-point roll cage, a charged mounted fire extinguisher, a 4-point harness, and many more.

Remember:

- Wear a helmet, protective eye gear, and follow park rules.
- “Spot the Tot” before you start your engine! Recently, a 3 year old was run over and killed in the camping area of one of our local Mud Bog Parks by the family’s vehicle.
- Mud bogging is only allowed in designated areas on public lands.
- It is illegal to drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or to have an open container of alcohol in a vehicle—*even on private property.*



TO SUBSCRIBE, UNSUBSCRIBE, OR
REQUEST PAST ISSUES:
(800) 373-8000 or
MeldonLaw.com

MeldonLaw.com

Jeffrey Meldon is a proud Life Member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, a prestigious group of trial lawyers throughout the country. Membership is limited to attorneys that have won million dollar verdicts, awards and settlements for their clients. Less than 1% of U.S. lawyers are members!



LIFE MEMBER
MILLION DOLLAR ADVOCATES FORUM
The Top Trial Lawyers In America™