



MELDON

LAW TALK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE LAW OFFICE OF JEFFREY MELDON & ASSOCIATES

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Useless Legal Facts

In Italy, it is illegal to craft coffins out of anything but wood or nutshells.

Unlike B.C. (Before Christ) the abbreviation A.D. (Anno Domini, "Year of Our Lord," not After Death) is properly placed in front of the year, i.e., A.D. 640, rather than 640 A.D.

The word "freelance" comes from medieval times when a knight was free for hire and not pledged to any one lord.

The word "testify" originates from the Roman courts where men were known to swear on their testicles about the truth of the matter unlike our present day custom of swearing on the Bible.

Long ago, when people wanted to get rid of others who were unwanted without killing them, they would burn down their houses to get them to leave—thus the term firing.

In 1980, a Las Vegas hospital suspended several workers for betting on when patients would die.

In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.

The raised reflectors in the middle of roadways are called Botts' dots.

The term "Alma mater" means bountiful mother.

November—Time to Give Thanks!

Veterans Day and Thanksgiving—both days to stop and give thanks.

The first Veteran's Day, then called Armistice Day, was November 11, 1919. President Wilson described it as, "a day to be filled with pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory." In 1926, President Coolidge made November 11 a legal holiday, "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace." In 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill that changed the name to Veterans Day, a day to celebrate all veterans, not just those who died in WWI. Veterans Day, unlike Memorial Day, is a day to be thankful for all of our soldiers, living and fallen, who have served our country.

There is much romanticism surrounding the history of Thanksgiving. However, one point that historians can agree on is that it began as a celebration of thankfulness. The first Thanksgiving was in St. Augustine, Fl. on September 8, 1565, celebrating the safe landing of 800 Spanish settlers. The celebration consisted of a mass followed by a meal shared with the Native Americans. Fifty six years later, the Puritan Pilgrim settlers in Plymouth Colony had a three day corn harvest celebration sometime between late September to mid November. There are many myths about the 1621 harvest festival, but some things historians know to be true:

- Cranberry sauce and potatoes (white or sweet) were not on the menu, nor were pies!
- Approximately 90 Wampanoag Indians and 52 colonists attended.
- The Native Americans contributed at least five deer to the feast.

We at the Law Office of Jeffrey Meldon & Associates salute and honor our veterans. We also give thanks to each and every one of you for your support and trust throughout the years.

Jeffrey's Thanksgiving Note

"Every year I give thanks for the good fortune I have been blessed with. This past year has been a difficult one for our law office family because we suffered the loss of our dear friend and colleague, T.G. Clark. The loss of T.G. reminds me every day that I need to be very grateful for each and every moment that I am given. The loss of T.G. has also reminded me and others that with the help of friends and family we can meet the challenges in our lives with a smile, just as T.G. did. Here at our law office we are grateful because we get to spend our days helping others and making their lives a little better. I wish everyone a healthy and happy Thanksgiving." *Jeffrey Meldon*

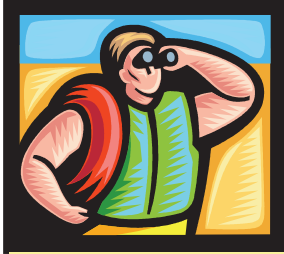


The Meldon Law Firm serves the "Heart of Florida" and the entire state for accidents, personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, dog bites, slip and falls, as well as DUI and criminal representation for Alachua County. **Available to you 24/7.**

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.

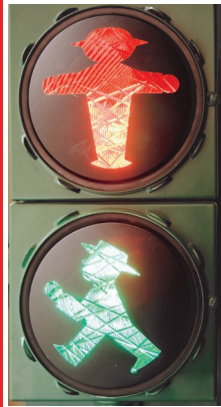
* To all who referred friends and family or have gone out of their way to send notes of appreciation, I thank you! *Jeffrey Meldon*



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*

Safety Reminder—Changing of clocks creates danger on roads



Daylight Saving Time, which began last spring on March 11 at 2:00 A.M., will come to an end on November 4 at 2:00 A.M.

As the saying goes, “Spring forward, Fall back.” In other words, when we turn our clocks back, we will get an “extra hour” of sleep. However, the changing of clocks also creates a hazard on the road.



Pedestrians are **three times more likely** to be hit and killed by cars in the early evening hours during the weeks following the shift back to Standard Time than in the month before—6 P.M. is the most dangerous time for walkers. Pedestrians and drivers, please take extra caution during these more dangerous times!

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 title, a \$100 scholarship, and a plaque. The award is announced on TV 20’s Thursday evening sports news at 6:00 p.m. 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. **This is one of Jeffrey’s favorite community services!**

Here are the recent winners—congratulations!

- Sept. 20—**Caroline Redmond** from Buchholz for Volleyball—“**Caroline is fun-loving** but on the court and in the classroom she’s all business.”
- Sept. 27—**Megan Lee** from St. Francis for Volleyball—“**Megan stays dedicated** to her team, teammates, and her grades.”
- Oct. 4—**Alex Mueller** from Eastside for Volleyball—“**Alex is a versatile player** on the court and proves she can do it all in the classroom too.”
- Oct. 11—**Jacob Holloway** from Bellview for Football—“**Jacob, a National Honor Society member**, does the job of three players on the field.”
- Oct. 18—**Garrett Westlake** from PK Young for Cross Country—“**Garrett is the fourth-ranked runner in Fla.** in Class A and with a 3.7 GPA.”

News Alert—You may have a dangerous airbag in your vehicle and not know it!

Recently, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) issued a news alert for vehicle owners who may be at risk for having counterfeit and dangerous airbags in their vehicle without their knowledge. Who is at risk?



- Vehicle owners who have had their airbags replaced within the last three years at a repair shop that was not part of a new car dealership.
- Consumers who do not know the full history of their used car.
- Consumers who purchased replacement airbags at a low cost from an on-line source or repair shop (i.e. less than \$400).

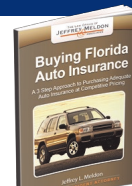
What is the risk? These counterfeit airbags have consistently malfunctioned ranging from not deploying when needed to the expulsion of metal shrapnel during deployment. (www.nhtsa.gov for more information)

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?

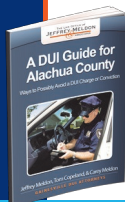
Be safe, educated, adequately insured, and prepared!



FREE Accident Kit with Camera



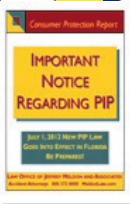
Insurance Guide **1-800-373-8000**



Help! App



Consumer Protection Accident Guide Book



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

Are you an unsafe or aggressive driver? Take the test and find out!

Thanksgiving weekend is around the corner, which means that many of us will take a road trip to celebrate the holiday with family and friends or just enjoy a long weekend vacation. In addition to checking that your tires and engine are ready for the road, make sure that your vehicle is not over packed and avoid driving while distracted or drowsy. Drive safely.

Aggressive driving is responsible for two-thirds of auto-related fatalities, four times greater than DUI related deaths. So, take the test and see if you are an unsafe or aggressive driver. **Do you:**

- Exceed the speed limit by 15 mph or more?
- Unsafely or improperly change lanes?
- Follow the vehicle in front of you too closely?
- Fail to yield the right of way?
- Improperly pass other vehicles?
- Violate traffic control and signal devices?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, you are an "Unsafe" driver.

If you answered "Yes" to two or more of these questions and display them simultaneously, you are an "Aggressive" driver by Florida law.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, an aggressive driver will: run red lights and stop signs, speed, tailgate, weave in and out of traffic, pass on the right, scream and honk, flash lights, and make threatening facial and hand gestures.

What can you do if you see an aggressive driver? Stay calm, give him space, and call the Florida Highway Patrol on your cell phone. The number is ***FHP (*347)** and you can call anonymously. This is also the number to call for roadside assistance.

November "Trivial Pursuit"— Do you know your November trivial facts?

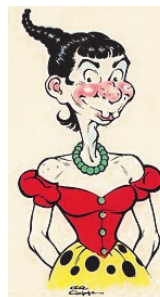
Q: In 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, President _____ proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November. Before this, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual _____ on different days.

Q: The national holiday on Nov. 11 has many spellings such as Veterans Day, Veteran's Day, and Veterans' Day. According to the U.S. government, which one is the official spelling?

Q: Sadie Hawkins Day is November 13. This American folk, pseudo-holiday originated from Al Capp's classic hillbilly comic strip, _____ which was set in the town of _____. In this comic strip, who was the "homeliest gal in all them hills"? What event was scheduled so that this gal and other unmarried women of the town could catch a bachelor with matrimony as the consequence?

Q: Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, got its name because black signifies a _____ in accounting.

Q: What is the day after Thanksgiving called by those who are tired of the commercialism of Christmas?



Answers: Lincoln, colonies and states, Veterans Day, Lil Abner, Dogpatch, Sadie Hawkins, a foot race, profit, Buy Nothing Day

Testimonial—I liked that I was kept up to date on the status of my case.

I had used Mr. Meldon in the past and thought he was a honest and kind person. So, after I was rear-ended at a red light, I called him and he took my case.

What I liked most about this law office was that I was kept updated on the status of my case and when I had concerns, Mr. Meldon took the time to either meet with me in person or call me.

I had no problems with this office and I really appreciated having Mr. Meldon call me himself and not just having someone in the office return my call when I had questions.

➔ **My advice** to anyone in the same situation as I was, is to try and be patient and have confidence that you have a lawyer and office that are on your side and working for you. I highly recommend Mr. Meldon and his office to my friends and family. Thank you, Mr. Meldon and your staff, for working with me. **Angela J. from Gainesville**

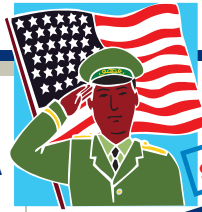
Note: This publication is intended to **educate** the general public. **It is not intended to be legal advice.** Every case is unique.

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SALUTING OUR VETERANS

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808 East Fort King St.
800-373-8000

Florida Accident Guide

Enclosed you will find our new and improved Florida Accident Guide.

Here are our suggestions on how to best utilize this more user-friendly valuable accident guide:

- ◆ Open and review the information;
- ◆ Put the accident guide back in the red envelope;
- ◆ Put the guide in the red envelope in your vehicle's glove compartment.

P.S. Feel free to request more guides for your other vehicles. 800.373.8000



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