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THE VAUGHAN LAW REPORT

SPRING
2016

*Drive safely
this spring—*

Traffic deaths are on the rise



The National Safety Council estimates that traffic deaths and serious injuries from traffic accidents rose for the first time in almost a decade. The Council reported that fatalities were 14 percent higher through the first six months of 2015 than they were during the same period in 2014, and serious injuries were 30 percent higher.

"The trend we are seeing on our roadways is like a flashing red light—danger lies ahead," said Deborah A.P. Hersman, president and CEO of the National Safety Council. "Be a defensive driver and make safe decisions behind the wheel. Your life really depends on it."

While the high death and injury toll could be due to many factors, the Council said that an improving economy with lower gas prices and unemployment rates has more people on the road. They also point to an increase in distracted-driving accidents. According to Injury Facts 2015, the Council's annual report on unintentional injuries, the three biggest causes of fatalities on the road are alcohol, speeding, and distracted driving. So slow down, drive sober, put your phone away, and enjoy safe travels this spring!

Spring-break safety tips

Spring break is a tradition among college students and young adults, but alcohol, large crowds, and lots of sun often create a dangerous environment that can result in alcohol poisoning, sexual assault, and other serious injuries. Here are tips to have a memorable and safe spring vacation from SABRE, a security equipment corporation that provides personal safety, home security, and law enforcement products.

Arrive safely. Driving through the night to make it down to Florida or other sunny destinations is common for spring breakers. But the National Safety Council says traffic death rates are three times greater at night than during the day. If you can't avoid night driving, at least one passenger should stay awake to talk to the driver.

Be smart about who you give personal information to. For instance, don't tell new acquaintances your hotel or room number.

Make sure you know the name and address of your hotel or take a hotel business card out with you so you can give it to a cab driver. This is especially important if you don't speak the local language.

Use the buddy system—it works! Never leave a party with a stranger. Travel with a friend or, better yet, with a group and stay at your intended destination.

Practice safe drinking. Designate one person in a group per night to drink minimally or not at all to look out for everyone. Also, always keep your drink in hand or where you can see it, and only accept drinks that were made or poured in front of you.

Hydrate and wear sunscreen. Heat stroke and melanoma aren't happy spring-break thoughts, but too much time in the sun can leave you dehydrated with an increased risk of sunburn. Take sunscreen and plenty of water with you to the beach or pool.

Source: sabrered.com



Vaughan Law Group Attorneys At Law

Thomas Vaughan has been recognized as...

- one of the nation's top 100 injured workers' attorneys by WILG (Workers' Injury Law and Advocacy Group).
- one of the top lawyers in Florida by The Legal Network.
- one of Orlando's top lawyers by *Orlando Home & Leisure*.

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What is a deposition?

In the course of a personal injury case, the plaintiff and witnesses may be asked to give sworn testimony for use as evidence or as discovery (the process where each side gathers information to create a case). This is called a deposition. During a deposition, one is under oath, just as if he/she were in a courtroom, and the testimony is recorded, usually by a court reporter who prepares a transcript of the deposition, but sometimes by video.

Plaintiffs should keep in mind that a deposition is asked to build the defense's case. They will not ask questions or try to gather information that would hurt their case. For this reason, it is very important to just give brief answers and to always consult with your attorney before giving a deposition. They can teach you how to word answers so they can't be used against you.

After the transcript or video is prepared, all parties are given the testimony to review. An attorney should be able to tell whether a witness will be helpful or harmful to a personal injury case and will plan your case accordingly. In addition to pretrial discovery, depositions may be used in court as evidence and may be available as part of the public court record after a trial ends.



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The information included in this newsletter is not intended as a substitute for professional legal advice. For your specific situation, please consult the appropriate legal professional.

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

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(Sudoku solution at bottom of page.)

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3 common birth injuries

The labor and delivery unit is a very busy and, fortunately, usually a happy place; however, there are several common birth injuries that can be the result of negligent medical care that new parents should be aware of:

- 1. Brachial plexus injuries (BPI)**—The brachial plexus is a group of nerves that control movement and sensation in the shoulders, arms, and hands. During vaginal delivery, the nerves can be damaged if the baby's shoulders become lodged or impacted by the mother's pubic bone, especially when excessive force is used to deliver the baby.
- 2. Fractures**—A newborn's bone structure is made to handle the stress of birth, but on occasion babies do suffer broken bones during birth. This can be a result of medical staff not acting quickly to a breech birth, allowing a labor to go on for too long without intervening, or using forceps and vacuums to extract the newborn.
- 3. Cerebral palsy**—Cerebral palsy is used to describe a number of conditions that result in movement and motor skills disorders due to muscle spasms and weakness. It may also be characterized by cognitive disabilities and by epilepsy. Cerebral palsy can result from reduced oxygen to the brain during birth from trauma or umbilical cord compression.

If your child suffered a severe birth injury due to the negligence of medical professionals, please contact an attorney immediately.

Sudoku solution

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9	1	4	6	7	3	8	5	2
2	8	7	1	5	9	3	4	6