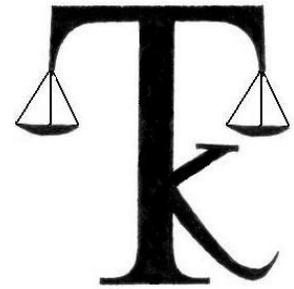


LEGALLY SPEAKING



Summer 2013

The pool owner has the responsibility to provide a safe environment for children and adults alike

POOL SAFETY

Summer is approaching, and although children drown year-round in Florida swimming pools, the hot months of summer are not surprisingly peak season for fatal and non-fatal pool accidents. Drowning is the leading cause of death for all children under age five, and 3/4 of them drown in backyard swimming pools. Florida loses more children age 1-4 to drowning than any other state.



Backyard Oasis or Attractive Nuisance?

The Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act, enacted by Florida Legislature in 2000, requires that new residential swimming pools have at least one of the following:

- an enclosure
- pool safety cover
- exit alarms on doors
- self-closing, self-latching devices on entries to the pool.

What are the responsibilities of homeowners with swimming pools and what can one do to keep children safe this summer?

Under Florida Law, residential homeowners are responsible for the safety of young children who visit their property, including those who trespass. Homeowners must be aware that their swimming pool may create an "attractive nuisance" along with some serious liability issues. Attractive nuisance is defined as a legal doctrine which makes a person negligent for leaving a piece of equipment or other

condition on property which would be both attractive and dangerous to curious children. This could include abandoned refrigerators, hazardous materials or equipment at untended construction sites, or an open pit. So how does this apply to the swimming pool in your backyard?

A swimming pool undeniably falls under the category "attractive and dangerous to curious children" and Florida law requires residential swimming pool owners to exercise reasonable care to prevent pool accidents.

Perhaps your pool was built prior to 2000? Approximately 90% of pool homes in Florida were built before the law was enacted. While these homeowners may not be required by law to install the above protective measures, they are not exempt from liability should a child be injured in their swimming pool. All responsible homeowners should protect themselves, and more importantly young children, from the issues that may arise from the cool and inviting water in their backyard swimming pool.

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SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

Attorneys, office staff and their families hit the trail together in support of Aspire Relationship Center, which planned the Walk N Roll event to raise funds and awareness for The RIVER Project. The Taylor Law group biked and walked a 5 mile section of The Withlacoochee Bay Trail, which runs to the Gulf of Mexico along the former Barge Canal.

To learn more about The RIVER Project, please visit their website: www.theriverproject.info.

Did you know...

Every 14.6 seconds a burglary occurs in the United States

Most burglaries take place between the hours of 10 am and 3 pm

Burglars spend an average of 8 to 12 minutes inside a home

The typical burglar is a male teenager who lives within a couple miles of the home

SUMMER CRIME PREVENTION

Summer is here, school is out, the temperature is on the rise- and so is crime. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the summer months of June, July and August bring a ten percent increase in crime in general. An FBI report suggests that with school being out, teenagers and kids with nothing to do find opportunities to get into trouble with drugs and alcohol, theft, vandalism and assault. Additionally, many families travel during the summer and an unattended home becomes an invitation to a criminal as does the distracted tourist. How can you safeguard your home this summer and help to prevent crime in your community?

The Citrus County Sheriff's Office has some excellent crime prevention tips on its website at sheriffcitrus.org.

One of the simplest things one can do is lock doors. According to the CCSO website, the number one crime in our community is burglary. Items are often stolen from unlocked cars, unsecured homes and open garages. Before you leave your home - even for a short period - double check that all of your doors and windows are locked. The CCSO Crime Prevention Team offers a free security survey to residential and commercial property owners which may help identify secu-



rity issues.

Going on vacation? Inform your trusted neighbors of when you will be gone, but don't inform all of your friends via social media. Don't let newspapers and mail pile up. Instead, have someone stop by regularly to collect it for you or have the postal service place a hold on your mail until you return. You may want to put your lights on timers to make it appear as someone is in the home. The Sheriff's Office provides a Vacation Watch Service which you can request online or by phone.

There is no fail-safe way to safeguard your property from crime, but a few extra steps may be a deterrent to would- be criminals.

THE MOST DANGEROUS TIME TO DRIVE

Getting behind the wheel of a car is the riskiest thing most people do every day, according to Russ Rader, a spokesman for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Approximately 40,000 people die in automobile crashes in the United States each year, averaging to 110 deaths per day. Despite these facts, driving remains necessary and each must do his part to help keep the roads safe.

When is the most dangerous time to drive? August is the month with the most traffic fatalities and Saturday is the day of the week most deadly accidents occur. Forbes magazine reports that evenings are more dangerous than daylight hours. Speeding is a factor in 30 % of all fatal crashes. During the day, 18% of fatal crashes

involve alcohol, while at night the number jumps to 54%. Nearly two-thirds of people killed at night were not wearing seat belts, in contrast with less than half during the day.



You may not be able to avoid driving on Saturday nights in August, but experts agree on some simple things to enhance safety: wear a seatbelt, drive the appropriate speed for the road conditions, and pay attention to

the road. Unfortunately, these are the things that drivers who cause accidents fail to do. According to a AAA survey, 82% of drivers think distracted driving is a serious problem, but over half admit to talking on their cell phones and 14% admit to reading or texting while driving. Almost 75% of drivers responded that speeding is a serious problem, but 20% say they have driven 15 miles per hour over the speed limit on the highway.

Our firm has represented many victims of auto accidents which have occurred because the at-fault drivers failed to follow the most basic safety measures.

Please drive safely this summer.

AGE OF TIRES IMPACTS AUTOMOBILE SAFETY

Automobile accidents involving tire tread separation have become a growing problem in the state and around the nation. Many of these crashes cause serious injury and even death, especially when occurring in SUVs which are likely to roll over when a tire fails. Knowing what causes a tire to fail will help to prevent accidents in the future.

The age of a tire is one of the key factors leading to tire tread separation. Carmakers, tire makers and rubber manufacturers differ in their opinions about the lifespan of a tire. Most vehicle manufacturers recommend replacing tires when they are 6 years old, regardless of the tread wear and number of miles driven. Tire manufacturers say that you can get up to 10 years out of a tire. The Rubber Manufacturers Association claims there is no way to put an expiration date on tires since such factors as heat, storage and conditions of use can reduce the life of a tire.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) states that tires age more quickly in warmer climates. NHTSA also found that exposure to sunlight and coastal climates can speed up the aging process. Even your spare tire, which is subject to the heat of the trunk, ages whether or not it has ever touched the pavement. When replacing your tires, keep in mind the unused tires sitting on the shelf in the tire store are also slowly aging.

So how do you know how old your tires are? Buying a brand new car or a new set of tires does not guarantee that you are driving with "fresh" tires. In a number of instances, consumers have purchased "new" tires at retail stores only to find out later that they were manufactured years earlier. In addition to having a shorter life on the road and possibly an accident waiting to happen, the tire may also be beyond its warranty period. Learn how to check the age of your tires using the

Tire Identification Number (TIN) which is required to be branded on the sidewall of every tire manufactured after 2000.

Before you head out on the family road trip this summer, please check the condition and age of your tires. If you discover you are driving with outdated tires that appear to be in good shape, you may want to consider replacing them.

How to Determine the Age of a Tire

<p>In the above picture you will look at the last four digits of the number on the right- 5107. The first two digits refers to the week the tire was made and the next two digits identifies the year. The tire in this example was made the 51st week of the year 2007.</p>

DUNNELLON LITTLE LEAGUE OPENING DAY



The Law Office of Keith R. Taylor has offices in Citrus and Marion Counties. Our firm is proud to support several community organizations including Dunnellon Little League.

Attorney Taylor attended the Opening Day Ceremonies in Dunnellon, and was honored to throw the opening pitch.

Photo credit: Jeff Bryan, Riverland News



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DUNNELLON OFFICE CELEBRATES ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The Law Office of Keith R. Taylor, P.A. is proud to celebrate the one year anniversary of the opening of its Dunnellon office located at 12017 S. Williams Street.

The firm has been serving the communities of Citrus and Marion counties since 1997 out of its Crystal River office. We are excited to continue serving the people of Dunnellon through a more convenient location, and to become a part

of the Historic Downtown Dunnellon community.

The Dunnellon office is primarily served by Attorney Taylor and offers representation in Personal Injury, Wrongful Death, Probate Litigation, Estate Planning, Corporate Representation and Real Estate Litigation.

Through the Crystal River and Dunnellon offices, the attorneys at The Law Office of Keith R. Taylor,

P.A. will continue to meet all of your legal needs. You may contact the Dunnellon office at

(352) 547-1867.



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