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Newsletter October 2019

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October 2019

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Don't Leave the Scene of a Car Accident

In Florida, it is illegal to leave the scene of an auto accident when the crash involves death, injury or property damage. A "hit and run" charge may follow if the driver(s) fails to stay at the crash site and satisfy certain statutory duties. A conviction of the criminal offense of "leaving the scene of an accident" can result in misdemeanor or felony penalties based on whether there was an injury or fatality.



What You Must Do at the Accident Scene

The actions that you must take at the scene of an accident depend on whether there is property damage, injuries and/or a fatality.

- **Property damage.** Stop your car immediately at the crash scene or as close as you can get to it; identify yourself to the driver of the other vehicle(s) with name, address and car registration number; show your driver's license if asked; provide information to any investigation police such as license, registration and your address. If the property owner is not at the location and you are not able to find them, attach a note with your name, address and registration number, and notify the nearest police department.
- **Bodily Injury or Death.** Follow the above procedure and render "reasonable assistance" to the other driver(s) involved including calling 911 if medical help is needed, or take the victim to a hospital or doctor. Notify the police if the victim is unable to request assistance.

Penalties for Leaving the Scene of an Accident

If you leave the scene of an accident without performing your statutory duties and there was property damage, you may be hit with a second-degree misdemeanor charge. If convicted, you could pay up to a \$500 fine and serve up to 60 days in jail.

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Our Offices and Hours

North Tampa / Lutz Office

18920 N Dale Mabry Hwy Suite 101
Lutz, FL 33548
United States (US)
Phone: (813) 868-1887
Fax: (813) 909-8535

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Scheduled appointments after hours

Inverness Office

Holliday Karatinos Law Firm, PLLC
111 West Main Street
Inverness, Florida 34450

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Scheduled appointments after hours

Hernando County Office

H&K Building 15316 Cortez Blvd
Brooksville, FL 34613
United States (US)
Phone: (352) 597-0009
Fax: (352) 597-8600

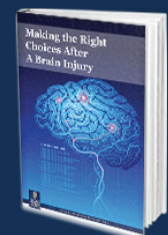
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....continued from page 1 **Don't Leave the Scene of a Car Accident**

The penalties for accidents involving injury or death are much more severe. For an accident where another person died, you may be charged with first-degree felony which has penalties of up to 30 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Note that if you were driving under the influence, you will face a mandatory 4-year prison sentence.

Leaving the scene of an accident where there were injuries may require a third-degree felony with penalties up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

Determining Liability for an Accident: Government Agencies

Every day we drive on roads that are designed, built and maintained by either a federal, state or local agency. We walk on sidewalks that are the responsibility of a government organization. So when a vehicle accident occurs on a road or a person slips and falls on a sidewalk, could a government agency be held liable?

Although most auto accidents are caused by driver error, poor road design, build or maintenance can be a contributing factor. Therefore, for an accident that occurs on government roads or sidewalks, an agency may be held responsible in a personal injury case.

Many road hazards can contribute to a government liability case, including:

- Traffic signals that are missing or that don't work
- Missing guardrails
- Curves that are not banked properly
- Inadequate or missing railroad crossing barriers
- Standing water
- Uneven expansion joints
- Overgrown trees that limit visibility
- Missing or faded road markings such as crosswalks
- Construction zones with missing or inadequate signage



Private contractors may also have legal liability in addition to government agencies if they are tasked with constructing or maintaining roads.

How to Handle an Accident That May Have Been Caused by a Road Hazard

Be sure to report the accident and the hazard to the proper governmental agency even if the police filed an accident report.

Then call us! We have the right experience in government liability cases, whether federal, Florida or cities and towns in our state. We will build evidence that the road had a hazardous condition and that there was negligence involved by those who designed, built or maintained the road.

If you or a family member has been injured in a car accident, boating accident or any other personal injury, it's important to get an attorney experienced in these types of cases involved immediately. Call (866) 364-9529 for your initial free consultation. The Holliday Karatinos Law Firm, PLLC, injury attorneys in Brooksville and Lutz, Florida, can help you determine whether you need a lawyer for an accident or any personal injury case.

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Recipe of the Month

Whole Wheat Pumpkin Waffles

Fall flavors abound in these pumpkin waffles! A great option for a leisurely Sunday breakfast or freeze them to eat through the week.

Ingredients

- 1 cup milk
- 1 egg, separated
- 1/2 cup plain pureed pumpkin
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 Tbsp canola oil
- 2 Tbsp brown sugar
- 3/4 cup whole wheat flour
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp nutmeg

Directions

1. Preheat waffle iron.
2. In a large bowl, combine milk, egg yolk, pumpkin, vanilla, oil and brown sugar together. Place egg white in a separate smaller bowl and beat with a hand mixer until firm peaks form. Set aside. Pour in remaining dry ingredients to the wet and slowly incorporate. Fold egg whites into waffle batter.
3. Spray waffle iron with non-stick cooking spray. Pour about 1/2 cup of batter onto waffle iron. Close the top slowly. Cook about 2 minutes or until waffles are crispy.
4. Serve immediately with butter and maple syrup.



Recipe courtesy of Lauren's Latest

What's Happening In & Around North Tampa

Nov 2

Tampa Riverwalk Fall Food & Art Festival
Water Works Park
Tampa, FL
<http://bit.ly/2my10k7>

Nov 9

Veteran's Day Fall Fly On TI
Thunderbird Beach Resort
Treasure Island Beach
Saint Petersburg, FL
<http://bit.ly/2nk4cA1>

Nov 15

The Doobie Brothers
The Mahaffey Theater
Saint Petersburg, FL
<http://bit.ly/2noHy9F>

Nov 16

River Tower Festival
River Tower Park
Tampa, FL
<http://bit.ly/2ITAm58>

Dec 6

Trisha Yearwood
Ruth Eckerd Hall
Clearwater, FL
<http://bit.ly/2mmzx5a>

Dec 7

Breakfast With Santa
Dunedin Community Center
Dunedin, FL
<http://bit.ly/2mzDinN>

Dec 13

Jimmy Buffett
Amalie Arena
Tampa, FL
<http://bit.ly/2nrkPJY>

Dec 15

Trans-Siberian Orchestra
Amalie Arena
Tampa, FL
<http://bit.ly/2noB8ay>

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Meet our Attorneys



**James Wayne
Holliday Esq.**



**Theodore "Ted" E.
Karatinos, Esq.**



Oscar Lopez Esq.

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