

**MURRAY  
& GUARI**  
TRIAL ATTORNEYS PL

*Helping Clients When They Need It Most.*

# Teen Distracted Driving

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Hablamos Español

1525 N. Flagler Drive, Suite 100 ■ West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Auto Accidents ■ Premises Liability ■ Product Liability ■ Personal Injury & Wrongful Death

www.murrayguari.com ■ (561) 366-9099

# Teens Driven to Distraction

## Passengers and cell phones play bigger role in car crashes involving teen drivers

Passengers and cell phones play a bigger role than thought when it comes to car crashes involving teen drivers (ages 16-19) according to a new safety study. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration had previously estimated that distractions of all kinds were a factor in only 14 percent of all teen driver crashes. The new study revealed that driver distraction was a factor in 58 percent of crashes; especially accidents in which vehicles ran off the road (89%) or had rear-end collisions (76%).



The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety analyzed nearly 1,700 videos that capture the actions of teen drivers in the moments before a crash. It found that distractions were a factor in nearly 6 of 10 moderate to severe crashes. That's four times the rate in many previous official estimates that were based on police reports.

The study is unusual because researchers rarely have access to crash videos that clearly show what drivers were doing in the seconds before impact as well as what was happening on the road. AAA was able to examine more than 6,842 videos from cameras mounted in vehicles, showing both the driver and the simultaneous view out the windshield.

The most common forms of distraction leading to a teen driver crash include:

- 15% - Interacting with one or more passengers
- 12% - Using a cell phone
- 10% - Looking for something in the vehicle
- 9% - Looking at something outside the vehicle
- 8% - Singing/dancing to music
- 6% - Grooming
- 6% - Reaching for an object

Even with this data Florida is still one of 21 states that does not have a teen ban on texting or holding a phone while driving. Florida is also one of 4 states that does not limit the number of passengers that a teen may have in the car with them while driving. The majority of states only allow one passenger under the age of 20.

AAA noted that in 2013 about 963,000 drivers ages 16 to 19 were involved in police-reported crashes in the United States and that these crashes resulted in 383,000 injuries and 2,865 deaths.

Parents are a powerful influence on their children and the type of driver they will become. We encourage you to talk to your teen about driving dangers, setting rules and understanding consequences. On our website under Resources, we have provided parents with a helpful distracted driving video and an informative distracted driving brochure. ■



# Investigating Zofran Birth Injury Cases

## Did You Take Zofran For Morning Sickness While Pregnant?

While you know us as your trusted auto accident and personal injury lawyers, we also represent clients in mass tort cases, including people who have been injured by medical products and prescription drugs.

We are currently investigating Zofran claims on behalf of mothers who were prescribed the anti-nausea medication Zofran (ondansetron) during their first trimester of pregnancy and delivered children with birth defects.

If you have questions about birth defects caused by taking Zofran during pregnancy or the legal options you may be entitled to, we can help. Call us today at 561-366-9099 for a free consultation. ■



### Side Effects & Birth Defects Linked to Zofran:

- Cleft lip
- Cleft palate
- Heart defects, including:
  - Atrial septal defect (ASD) (hole in the heart)
  - Ventricular septal defects (VSD) (hole between two lower chambers of the heart)
- Heart murmur
- Kidney malformation or missing kidney
- Deformed skull
- Limb defect
- Fetal growth restrictions
- Miscarriage (fetal death)

## We Are Proud to be Trial Attorneys

We are proud to be trial attorneys and to help our clients when they need it most. As our firm embarks on the beginning of its second decade, we continue to handle personal injury and wrongful death matters from start to finish – whether it is in pre-litigation or in litigation (having to file a lawsuit).

Over the last ten (10) years of our practice, we have seen firsthand the extremely aggressive claims handling practices of the auto insurance companies. Part of the reason is that those publicly traded companies have – in the past – taken a beating in the financial markets, and they have stockholders to report to. In turn, reserves for paying valid claims have been greatly reduced and claims tactics such as “Deny, Delay, and Defend” have become the new normal.

To add fuel to the fire, there has been an increase of lawyer advertisements on TV, radio, internet and billboards. Ads that boast the dollar figure of settlements can turn off even the most open-minded individuals. Even tasteful lawyer advertisements have led to an unfair, negative public perception of lawyers and their clients who bring personal injury claims.

Handling personal injury claims is more challenging than ever before. The days of resolving a case for a fair amount pre-litigation are limited, and firms – like ours who are committed to serving our clients – must often file lawsuits to achieve justice and fair results for our clients.

Our firm has grown tremendously over the last ten (10) years. We are proud of what we and our staff have accomplished for our clients. It is no wonder that our highest referral source is satisfied, past clients. ■



# Kids in Hot Cars

## Most Deaths Occur When A Caregiver Forgets

It is never okay to leave kids in a car – even with a window open. There is no safe amount of time to leave children alone in the car. Even just a few minutes can prove fatal.

Since 1998, more than 600 children have died from heat stroke because they were left in cars on warm days, according to KidsAndCars.org. An average of 38 children die each year from this preventable tragedy. More than 70% of deaths occur in children under the age of 2.



The most dangerous mistake a parent or caregiver can make is to think it cannot happen to them or their family.

Common causes of these needless tragedies include the child being forgotten by a caregiver, a child playing in an unattended vehicle, a child intentionally left in vehicle, miscommunication between caretakers, a child left in vehicle while caretaker runs errands, a child left in vehicle while caretaker at work, a parent falls asleep and wakes up to find child in vehicle and a child presumed to be asleep but found in vehicle.

For tips on preventing and keeping your kids safe from heatstroke, KidAndCars.org recommends the following helpful information on their website at: <http://www.kidsincars.org/heatstroke.html>.

Parents should be on alert for cars that might have an unattended child left inside. If you see a child alone in a car be sure to call 911 and help make sure the child gets out as soon as possible. ■

### Cycling Safety Word Search

P D S M S E L U R L O O P G E  
 O I W E T A L V E V Y X N C E  
 O A I T R G F I Q D F I I M S  
 L T M S K C T P F U R V E R K  
 A S M Y F E N C E E E R E U P  
 L R I S V I I M F D G V N O E  
 A I N Y J X T I N E O U O B A  
 R F G D F M L O N C I L A G Z  
 M C L D T G I C N D C J E R P  
 Q P E U U T Y I I O C W W F D  
 O B S B A P A Y V J G P X Y X  
 D Q S T H R O E W E D L R H W  
 K W O O D N R C I N J E O W U  
 B L N S U P E R V I S I O N S  
 F E S E L O P G N I H C A E R

### Circle-Word List

First Aid	Pool Cover	Buddy System
Cpr	Pool Rules	Flotation Device
Lifeguard	Drain Covers	Reaching Poles
Life Ring	Supervision	Emergency Phone
Fences	Pool Alarm	Swimming Lessons

### And The Answer is?

In 2012, what percent of passenger vehicle occupants 21 to 24 years old were not using restraints when killed in traffic crashes?

- 39 percent
- 63 percent
- Less than 25 percent
- 50 percent



\*See page 5 for answer.

# Supporting Our Community

## Battle of the Belts

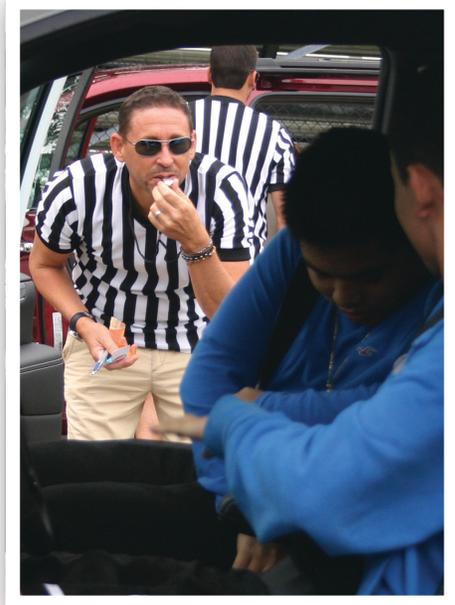
We recently sponsored and served as referees of Royal Palm Beach High School's Youth Safety Day's Battle of the Belts, an exciting and fun "buckle-up" competition for high school students designed to change behaviors and attitudes about seat belt use. Students competed to see who could buckle-up the fastest. Visit our website and Facebook page for more photos. ■



## Meet New Associate Attorney Tabitha Harnage

Attorneys Scott Murray and Jason Guari congratulate Tabitha G. Harnage on her admission to The Florida Bar and are pleased to announce that she has joined the firm as an associate.

Tabitha earned her law degree from Faulkner University, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law. Prior to Law School, Ms. Harnage worked as a Law Clerk for the firm, where she assisted the attorneys with legal research, preparing motions and pleadings, and in overall pre-litigation, case management work-up. Ms. Harnage's practice will now focus on premises liability, personal injury and wrongful death matters. ■



## Murray & Guari – Hablamos Español

Nosotros, tanto como usted, llamamos el Sur de Florida nuestro hogar. Practicamos la ley de lesiones personal en todas partes de la Florida y estamos orgullosos de ofrecer nuestros servicios en los condados de Palm Beach, Broward, Martin, y Treasure Coast. Tenemos más de 30 años de experiencia legal combinada. Le ofrecemos a los clientes el mejor servicio de 'una firma grande de abogados' en manos de, 'el studio "boutique" de abogados'. Si usted tiene un caso de lesiones personal, llámenos al (561) 366-9099 o póngase en contacto con nosotros en el Internet en [www.murrayguari.com](http://www.murrayguari.com). Estamos encantados a responder a sus preguntas. ■

## Stay Connected

Our social media accounts allow us to connect with you in real-time and share the latest news and information regarding our practice, important safety information and legal updates. We look forward to being a part of your social network. ■



<http://www.facebook.com/MurrayGuariTrialAttorneys>



<http://www.youtube.com/murrayguari>



<http://pinterest.com/murrayguari>



<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/jason-guari-esq/5a/a0/446>



SCAN with a smart device:  
Phone, Tablet.

For more information:  
<http://goo.gl/CG7sC>



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# Murray & Guari Trial Attorneys PL

## How Can We Help



At Murray & Guari Trial Attorneys PL, we **represent victims** throughout Florida who have suffered serious personal injuries due to the negligence of others. At our firm,

you will find a team that is **truly concerned about your well-being and getting justice**. We are proud that our clients come to us based on a personal recommendation from past clients and from other attorneys in the community who respect our reputation and the quality of our work. We would be honored to put our experience, skill and integrity to work for you. ■



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