



# Murray Guari

Trial Attorneys PL

Personal Injury | Wrongful Death | Auto Accidents | Product Liability | Premises Liability

Murray Guari Trial Attorneys' Partners Jason J. Guari and Scott B. Perry recently settled a tragic and factually sensitive, negligence case for \$1,300,000.



# Protecting Your Children

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# Keeping Our Kids Safe

## What Can Parents Do?

It's not easy being a parent in today's world, and protecting your child is more complicated than simply teaching children to call 911 or to stop, drop and roll. Today, parents are concerned about child predators, bullying, cyberbullying, internet safety, school violence, drug or alcohol use, human trafficking, abductions and more.

Many of today's youth lack the skills to protect themselves in dangerous situations. It is up to the parents to teach children the skills needed to be safe.



### Anxious Toddlers (AT)

Parenting Survival, a website dedicated to raising kids with anxiety, recommends these six uncommon tips that could save your child's life:

- **No more personalized items** – Do not make it easy for predators to identify or to get to your child. That means no more names on items like backpacks, notebooks, lunch boxes, barrettes, clothing, or toys.
- **Have a code name** – Identify a family code name to protect your children and teach them when and how to use it. A code word can make it easier for a child to ask for help or help prevent potential abductions.
- **If followed, run in opposite direction of vehicle** – Teach your children to run in the opposite direction of the vehicle as this could buy them some time to escape while the car turns around.
- **When in trouble, look for moms with kids** – If kids are scared, lost, feeling unsafe, or are in danger, tell them to find a mom with kids. Moms are much more likely to be present than a police officer or a store clerk.
- **Teach kids to yell “Who are You”** – In emergency situations, teach kids to yell out something that will catch another's attention or alarm them. You want others to know your child is not just having a tantrum but is in real trouble and needs help.
- **Teach kids to be destructive in order to draw attention** – Teach kids that if a stranger takes them – all manners are out the window. Teach your child it is okay to hit, scream and make a scene.

Everything a parent can do to teach their children about safety and protecting themselves could mean the difference between life and death.

For additional child safety tips visit Safe Kids Worldwide's website at [www.safekids.org/safetytips](http://www.safekids.org/safetytips). ■

## Proposed Florida Legislation – Vehicle Insurance Database

# Cracking Down on Uninsured Motorists

The Florida Legislature is looking to introduce a new bill that establishes an online verification system that would provide your current insurance status. Today, police officers can only look up your license and registration, but not your insurance status. Similarly, after an accident, it can take 30 days or more to determine if the at-fault driver has insurance coverage.

If approved, by June 1, 2022, insurance companies would be required to upload weekly status reports of all their customers. Police would also be required to not only check your license and registration but would now immediately look up your insurance status, if you are involved in an auto accident or a traffic stop.

The goal of the program, which is already implemented in 13 other states, is to reduce the state's uninsured motorist rates. Unfortunately, the current proposed bill does not have any police enforcement mechanisms that are included in other states' legislation. So, the question is – what would happen



if a police officer stopped a motorist who is driving without insurance? Would the driver be allowed to get back into the car and drive away? These questions and more will most likely be debated as the bill move through the legislative process between March 5th and May 3rd. The Florida legislature has tried three times in the past to pass similar legislation, only to have it fail. ■

## What is This Symbol?

Have you ever been driving in your car and this symbol lights up on your dashboard? Did it leave you wondering what is this and what is wrong with my vehicle?

Over 40% of drivers are unable to identify the low tire-pressure warning light, let alone check their tire pressure.

This symbol refers to the **TPMS (Tire Pressure Monitoring System)** and it is very important. It is a standard feature in vehicles manufactured after 2008. This image signals when the pressure in one or more of your tires is too low and needs to be addressed to prevent unsafe driving conditions.

Should this symbol light up, you should manually check your tires with a pressure gauge and add air until the pressure



reaches the vehicle manufacturer's specification or take your vehicle in for service.

A TPMS warning light **IS NOT** a substitute for regularly checking your tire pressure and keeping it at the recommended level. You should check your tires monthly or every time you fill-up your gas tank. ■

# Have You Seen Medicare Fraud?

**Attorney Ryan McCabe of McCabe Rabin, P.A.**

*Guest Columnist*

Ripping off the government is big business. Every year, dishonest businesses cheat the government out of billions of dollars. Here in South Florida, one of the most common scams is healthcare fraud. Indeed, due to our large elderly population, South Florida is often referred to as “Ground Zero” for Medicare fraud.

Unfortunately, cheating the taxpayers is nothing new. During the Civil War, dishonest defense contractors ripped off the Union Army by selling barrels of sand labeled as “gunpowder.” The problem became so great that President Abraham Lincoln passed a law known as the **False Claims Act**, which offers rewards to private citizens who report fraud against the government. President Lincoln’s law is still around today, and it is still going strong, offering cash rewards to courageous **whistleblowers** who report fraud against the government – including Medicare fraud.

Almost anyone can be a whistleblower. To claim a reward, the whistleblower must first file a legal case under seal, advising the government of the details of the fraud. The government



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then investigates the case while it is under seal, meaning the defendant does not know about it. At the end of the investigation, the government may impose a fine against the wrongdoer. If this happens, the whistleblower may be entitled to a reward of up to 30% of the fine.

Every year, the Department of Justice recovers billions of dollars against fraudsters who have cheated the taxpayers, and it pays hundreds of millions of dollars to courageous whistleblowers who brought cases under the False Claims Act.

If you believe you have information about Medicare government fraud, or any other government fraud, call Ryon McCabe for a free evaluation of your case. ■



# Supporting Our Community



## Holiday Cheer

Attorneys Scott Murray, Jason Guari, Scott Perry, and Keith Hedrick attended the Palm Beach County Bar Association's Annual Holiday Party & Silent Auction. Proceeds benefiting local charities, including a holiday party for abused and neglected children. ■



## Race for the Cure®

We were proud supporters of the 2019 Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® South Florida with our litigation paralegal and breast cancer survivor, June Cozza. Pictured also is our pre-litigation paralegal Cecilia Del Aguila ■



## Meet Paralegal Cecilia Del Aguila

Cecilia joined the firm after retiring from Allstate Insurance Company after more than 33 years as a Staff Claim Service Adjuster. She originally worked in various Allstate Claims offices on Long Island, New York, prior to transferring to South Florida in 1996. She has extensive experience and knowledge in property (writing estimates on cars and homes) and casualty insurance including the handling of Personal Injury Protection (PIP) claims and evaluating / negotiating and settling Bodily Injury (BI) claims and Uninsured Motorists (UIM/UM) claims. She was also an Evaluation Consultant, as well as a Litigation Expert. She has attended hundreds of mediations including Global settlements conferences having resolved complicated injury claims and has handled punitive damages claims. Cecilia has also trained new adjusters in medical terminology and in the evaluation of an injury claim from its inception to settlement. She has extensive knowledge of personal injury claims and with defense side experience – she's in the best position to counter their arguments. ■

## Thank You For Your Confidence And Trust In Us

We at Murray Guari are thankful and humbled by the **positive feedback from our clients**. We remain strong on our focus – helping our clients when they need it most. **Here, we share a couple of recent comment reviews provided by our clients:**

*"This is the firm other lawyers use for personal injury cases. I would highly recommend Scott Murray, Jason Guari, Scott Perry, and the entire staff. They are professional, ethical, and compassionate attorneys." ~ AB*

*"Scott Perry was highly recommended after my car accident. He took the time to meet with me and explain the process. He was very thorough and keep me informed every step of the way! It gave me comfort in knowing I had a strong team of caring people on my side." ~ CC*

# Recognitions

Our attorneys have been recognized on the local and national levels for their achievements in law, as well as their community leadership and other activities.



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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 for you.** 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. ■



Keith Hedrick, Scott C. Murray, Jason J. Guari, and Scott B. Perry

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