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Staying Safe on Florida's Roads

Your Guide to Hit-and-Runs, Wrong-Way Drivers, and New Speeding Laws

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We represent the injured throughout Florida

Hit-and-Run Accidents

Florida Hit-and-Run Crashes: What You Need to Know

Hit-and-run crashes remain a serious problem on Florida's roads, with nearly 25 percent of all crashes involving a driver who flees the scene. Understanding what to do if you're involved in or witness such an incident is crucial for protecting yourself and others.

The Numbers Tell the Story

Florida's hit-and-run statistics are alarming! In 2023, there were 104,273 hit-and-run crashes statewide, resulting in 271 fatalities and 871 serious bodily injuries. Vulnerable road users face the greatest risk. Of the 271 hit-and-run fatalities in 2023, 159 were pedestrians and 47 were bicyclists—accounting for 76% of all hit-and-run deaths. Most fatal incidents occur during dawn, dusk, or nighttime conditions when visibility is reduced.

What to Do If You're a Victim Immediate Actions:

- 1. Ensure Safety:** Move to a safe location if possible and call 911 – especially if anyone is injured
- 2. Document Everything:** Take photos of vehicle damage, the scene, and any visible license plates
- 3. Gather Details:** Note the other vehicle's make, model, color, license plate, and direction of travel
- 4. Find Witnesses:** Collect contact information from anyone who saw the incident
- 5. Report the Crash:** File a police report immediately
- 6. Seek Medical Care:** Get checked by a doctor if you are experiencing any pain, remember some injuries appear later

If You Witness a Hit-and-Run

Your observations can be crucial for victims and law enforcement. Call 911 immediately to report the crash and provide detailed vehicle descriptions and license plate numbers. You can also report

anonymously to Florida Crime Stoppers at **TIPS (**8477) or through their smartphone app, and stay at the scene if safe to provide a witness statement. You can also call *FHP (*347)

Property Damage Incidents

Even minor crashes require you to stop and attempt to locate the property owner. If you can't find them, leave your contact and insurance information in a visible location. For property-damage-only accidents where contact is made, both parties can self-file a crash report with FLHSMV without needing police involvement.

Prevention Matters

Florida law requires drivers to stay at crash scenes—it's not just the law, it could save a life. Staying alert, especially during low-visibility conditions, and taking responsibility for our actions makes Florida's roads safer for everyone. ■



Wrong-Way Drivers

Florida Wrong-Way Drivers: A Deadly Threat on Our Roads

Wrong-way driving crashes are among the most dangerous incidents on Florida's roads, often resulting in catastrophic head-on collisions with devastating consequences. Understanding how to avoid these situations and respond appropriately can be the difference between life and death.

The Stark Reality

Florida's Department of Transportation (FDOT) reports that, "While wrong-way driving crashes occur randomly and less frequently than other types of crashes, they often involve more than one vehicle and can result in multiple fatalities and/or serious injuries." Driver impairment from alcohol or drugs is the predominant factor in these crashes, though confusion, elderly drivers, and distraction also contribute. Most wrong-way incidents occur between midnight and 6 A.M., when reduced visibility combines with higher rates of impairment to create deadly conditions.

If You Realize You're Going the Wrong Way

Finding yourself driving against traffic is terrifying, but your response can prevent tragedy. FDOT provides clear guidance: stop immediately, pull over to the side of the road, and turn around when it is safe to do so. Never try to back up on a highway or interstate—the goal is to get out of traffic's path as quickly and safely as possible.

When You Encounter a Wrong-Way Driver

Spotting a wrong-way driver, or seeing an alert on electronic message boards, requires immediate defensive action. Use caution and reduce your speed to give yourself more reaction time. Pull over to the rightmost lane or completely off the roadway if safe. Call 911 immediately to report the incident, providing your location, direction of travel, and vehicle description. Avoid sudden movements, as wrong-way drivers may be impaired or confused, making their actions unpredictable.

Prevention Strategies

Most wrong-way entries occur at highway ramps, particularly during nighttime hours when visibility is reduced and signage may be harder to see. To avoid becoming a wrong-way driver:

- **Pay attention at ramps and intersections.** Look for "Wrong Way" and "Do Not Enter" signs, especially when tired or in unfamiliar areas.
- **Follow pavement markings.** Lane arrows and divider lines are designed to guide traffic in the correct direction.
- **Avoid Distractions.** Keep full attention on the road, particularly in unfamiliar areas or at night.
- **Do not drive when impaired or extremely fatigued.** Many wrong-way incidents involve alcohol or driver fatigue.
- **Use GPS navigation carefully.** Don't blindly follow directions—verify they make sense with road signs and traffic patterns.

Wrong-way driving crashes are preventable tragedies that destroy families and communities. By staying alert, following traffic laws, and knowing how to respond in these dangerous situations, we can all help make Florida's roads safer. ■



New Excessive Speeding Penalties

New Florida Law Targets “Dangerous Excessive Speeding”

Florida drivers, take note: A significant new law, House Bill 351 (HB 351), targeting "Dangerous Excessive Speeding" took effect on July 1, 2025. This legislation introduces stricter penalties for severe speeding offenses, aiming to improve roadway safety across the state.

Why Was This Law Enacted?

This new measure comes in response to ongoing concerns about high-speed driving contributing to serious crashes. The Florida Department of Transportation reported that speeding was a factor in nearly 10% of traffic fatalities statewide between 2019 and 2023, highlighting the need for more stringent enforcement.

What Constitutes "Dangerous Excessive Speeding"?

Under HB 351, a driver commits "dangerous excessive speeding" if they operate a motor vehicle in one of two ways:

1. In excess of the speed limit by 50 miles per hour or more.
2. At 100 miles per hour or more in a manner that threatens the safety of other persons or property or interferes with the operation of any vehicle.

What Are the Penalties?

The penalties for violating this new law are substantial and include potential jail time, unlike many standard speeding infractions:

- **First Offense:** A conviction can result in imprisonment for up to 30 days, a fine of up to \$500, or both.
- **Second or Subsequent Conviction:** Penalties increase to imprisonment for up to 90 days, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both.
- **Driving Privilege Revocation:** If a second or subsequent conviction occurs within five years of a prior conviction for the same offense, the driver's Florida driving privilege will be revoked for at least 180 days, but no more than 1 year.

How to Stay Safe Around Excessive Speeders?

While this new law aims to deter dangerous driving, it's crucial for all motorists to practice defensive driving. If you encounter an excessive speeder, maintain a safe distance, avoid engaging, and allow them to pass. Focus on your own driving, obey all traffic laws, and report extremely reckless behavior to law enforcement when it's safe to do so. Your vigilance helps protect everyone on the road. ■



Firm News



Jeffrey Saint-Vil – Pre-Litigation Legal Assistant

Jeffrey Saint-Vil joined the firm in July 2025. He is a Legal Assistant for the Pre-Litigation Department supporting the Senior Paralegal and the firm's attorneys working up and preparing cases for demand and settlement. ■



Murray Guari Perry Partners Recognized as Florida Super Lawyers

We are incredibly proud to announce that our partners, Scott Murray, Jason Guari, and Scott Perry, have all been recognized by Super Lawyers Magazine!

For the 5th consecutive year, Scott Murray has been named a Florida Super Lawyer, a testament to his exceptional legal skills and tireless advocacy. Jason Guari has also been recognized on the 2025 Florida Super Lawyer list for an impressive 13th year, highlighting his outstanding results and unwavering dedication. We also celebrate a fantastic milestone for Scott Perry, who has been named a Florida Rising Star for an remarkable 10 years in a row. These honors highlight their commitment to legal excellence and the positive impact they have on our clients' lives. ■

Thank You For Your Confidence And Trust In Us

We at Murray Guari Perry 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 are a couple of recent reviews provided by our clients:**

V Vincent Didomenico



They're the best! Scott and Jason care about people!

S Stevarius Green



The team at Murray Guari took really good care of me with giving great advice and also a great outcome with the case.

K Kayla Lam



To Mr. Jason Guari and Ms. Meghan Carney, thank you so much for everything you guys have done! After my car accident occurred, I was left with severe back pain, eventually leading to surgery. Through every step, Jason and Meghan made me feel comfortable and safe. They were extremely compassionate, thorough, and dedicated to my case. Thank you so much again, you guys are truly the best!

We have over 129 5-Star Reviews on Google!

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 Perry Trial Attorneys is a boutique personal injury law firm in South Florida. We've been helping clients for over 20 years to recover compensation for injuries caused by the negligence of others.



Keith Hedrick, Jason Guari, Scott Murray, and Scott Perry

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