

The STRAIGHTTALK

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The Newsletter

September 2011 | Volume 2 | Issue 9

Is Your Teen Driving Back To School?



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Calendar

- ◆ Blues for Food Fest 9/03
- ◆ Bumbershoot Festival 9/03-9/05
- ◆ Labor Day 9/05
- ◆ Puyallup Fair 9/09-9/25

Getting up early for school?

Who wants some free Starbucks?!

See Back for Details

It's that time again. Summer is ending, school is starting and for many parents that means that their teens will be driving themselves to school. But did you know that 16-year-old drivers have higher crash rates than drivers of any other age and that 58% of teen drivers crash in their first year of driving. It gets a little scarier when you find out that 63% of teenage passenger deaths occur in vehicles driven by another teen. Is your teen really ready to get behind the wheel? Here are a few steps that every parent should take to help prepare their teen to drive to school and back safely:

- Teens who don't get at least 8 hours of sleep every night are twice as likely to fall asleep behind the wheel. Set rules that will force your teen to get enough sleep before driving, and if they don't make it home in time for a full nights rest, they can take the bus the next morning.
- Work with your teen to establish clear driving rules and restrictions, and enforce those rules when they are broken. Parental involvement is a key factor when it comes to safe driving practices.
- Understand and enforce Graduated Driver Licensing laws; don't rely solely on law enforcement to do the work for you.
- Talk to your teen about distracted driving! Taking your eyes off of the road to change

the station on the radio can lead to a serious accident. But that is nothing compared to the time that it takes to read and respond to a text message. Texting and driving is a serious epidemic among teens today, and parents need to set a good example by putting their cell phone away before they even get in the car.

- Talk to your teen about the dangers of drinking and driving. It is impossible to know what your teen is doing every moment of the day and sometimes they make the wrong decision and choose to drink. Talk to your teen, and let them know that in this situation you would rather that they call you to pick them up instead of trying to drive home. Make a deal with them that you will hold off punishing them until the morning because by calling you they at least made one right decision. As much as we do not condone underage drinking, it is better if your teen knows that they can call you and have a safe ride home then them trying to drive home intoxicated.

As a parent you have enough to worry about already without throwing driving into the mix. That is why it is so important to talk to your teen early, before they get sucked in by peer pressure. Establishing trust between you and your teen driver can literally be the difference between life and death for your teen and everyone else on the road with them.

Jason Needs Your Help!!!

September 3rd is Jason's 10th wedding anniversary with his wife Adrienne, and he has yet to buy her a gift! He needs your help to come up with something memorable. In return, Jason will buy 2 of the winning gift and send the second one to the person with the winning suggestion.

The only rule is that the gift MUST be under \$100.

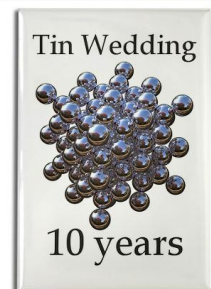


1st place - The same thing that Jason buys for his wife!

2nd place - \$50 gift card for the **Melting Pot**

3rd place - \$15 gift card for **Starbucks** and a copy of the bestselling book **The Next Big Thing**, written by Jason Epstein and Patrick Kang

Send your gift idea to: Dlee@plg-llc.com



School Zone Safety Tips

Now that school is back in session school zone laws are back in effect and as drivers we all need to take precautions when driving near a school or areas where children play. Remember that fines double in school zones, so along with potentially saving a life by driving cautiously, you can also save yourself some money. Here are some helpful tips for driving during school hours:



1. Always be alert—Expect that pedestrians will be on the sidewalks, especially around schools and in neighborhoods. Look between parked cars and other objects for children that could possibly dart out into the road.
2. Be prepared—You may have to adjust your schedule during the school year to allow yourself time to make it through slower school zones and the extra traffic in that area.
3. Watch for crossing guards—Be on the lookout for crossing guards and ALWAYS comply with their signals.
4. Avoid distractions—Distracted driving is extremely dangerous even without adding children and school zones into the mix. Put your phone away before you get into the car so that you aren't tempted to use it.
5. Stop for school buses—Be on the lookout for buses that are stopped to load or unload children. Remember that it is illegal to pass a bus with flashing red lights.

Social Networking and Your Case

We all know that insurance companies never have your best interests in mind, and these days they are resorting to tactics to discredit your case that most people would never even think of. Did you know that in some cases, insurance adjusters actually try to trick you into becoming their friend on sites like Facebook so that they can read what you are posting and look at your pictures to try and find things to use against you and discredit your case? We have even seen insurance companies take innocent joking between friends and distort it to make the injury victim seem like he or she is faking their injuries.

We actually suggest to all of our clients that they take down all social networking profiles they may have during their case. Not surprisingly, most clients don't want to do this because social networking has become a part of everyday life for many of us. So if you choose not to close your accounts during your case, here are some helpful tips to keep the insurance adjuster away from your profile.

During Your Personal Injury Case Do Not...

- Allow anyone to become your "friend" on a social networking site unless you are positive that you know and trust that person.
- Post any photographs or video of yourself, and request that friends do not post anything with you in it as well.
- Write anything about yourself that you would not want the opposing side to bring up in a trial.
- Send emails or text messages to anyone except your attorney about your case.
- Participate in online discussions about your case, including blogs, chat rooms and message boards.



Why We Love Our Clients

Here at **Premier Law Group** we want all of our clients, old and new, to feel as though they are a part of our family. Referrals make up a very large portion of our business and it makes us feel good to know that our clients had such a positive experience with us that they referred a friend. We have met a lot of wonderful clients through referrals but did you know that our



very own receptionist Carrie was actually a client before she began working here? The firm had been unable to find a reliable receptionist that knew what they were doing until Carrie came along. After her case closed she handed in her

resume and the rest is history, she has now been here for more than 3 years!

You Have Questions—We Have Answers!

Question...

What type of evidence is most important when filing a claim?

Answer...

You can never have too much hard evidence. If you take the time to collect these key things, you will have a much better chance against the insurance company, because they cannot deny hard evidence.

1. The other parties information: Name, phone number, address, insurance information and vehicle information.
2. Witness information: Name, address and phone number.
3. Pictures of the scene: You can never have too many pictures of the scene of the accident. Make sure to get plenty of your vehicle and any other vehicle involved.
4. Pictures of your injury: If possible get pictures of your injuries at the scene, the hospital and how they are affecting your everyday life.

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Thanks For Your Referrals!

Readers of this newsletter have referred 28 clients to our firm since the start of 2010. Thank you so much, and please let us know if we can help you in the future!

FREE Legal Resource Guides

- *The Truth About Washington Auto Accidents*
- *The Truth About Washington Motorcycle Accidents*
- *The Truth About Buying*
- *Washington Auto Insurance*
- *In Case of Death: Straight Talk on Washington Wrongful Death*

Contact: Dlee@plg-llc.com

Trivia Question of the Month

What is the name of the computer program used by the auto insurance companies to reduce personal injury claims?

First person to email the correct answer to Dlee@plg-llc.com will win a Starbucks gift card!!



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We Want to Feature YOU in Our Newsletter!

That's right, we want to recognize those of you that are doing amazing things in our next newsletter in a new feature called "Community Member Spotlight!"

If you, or someone you know deserves recognition for something they do, please let us know!

Email Danielle at Dlee@plg-llc.com with some background information and contact info to follow up on, and we'll write a feature article on this community hero for our next newsletter!

