

The Francis Law Group

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6 TIPS FOR ENJOYING THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays are here again! An author I respect wrote that this time of year is pure magic, and that it is some thing he anticipates and enjoys each and every year. To be honest, I am usually guilty of not stopping long enough to enjoy the season. However, this year I have decided to stop no matter what, and make sure I do take the time to enjoy friends and family, after all, when it's all said and done, that's what it's all about.

For some people, the pace of things have become so fast, that some people don't enjoy the times they get to spend with their family and friends during what is supposed to be days filled with joy and peace. Other people get so caught up in the commercialization of the season, that they go through the holidays as if they were executing some human program that had been ingrained in them from childbirth to present.

My heart is heavy for some, who have lost the joy and excitement they once had at other times, mostly due to the fact that many people are out of work and even losing their homes. It can be even harder for others who have lost love ones and precious things they held dear.

Whenever I start to feel down - when I think of all the things that have gone wrong, and all the things in my life that could be better - I quickly pull back and remember what I always tell myself. I always tell myself that sitting and worrying won't make it better, that thinking and trying to come up with ways to solve the problem is always a better use of my time. I suggest that to everyone.

No matter how bad off you are, if you can find friends and/or family (and most of us can - even just for the holidays) I encourage you all to embrace them. I do believe our holiday times should be wonderful and filled with lasting and enjoyable moments and memories - you don't need money or worldly possessions for that. This time of year is another chance to remember the important truths of life and to enjoy time with dear friends and family. So here are a few tips I received from an e-listing I subscribe to. If you use these tips they should help you come out of the holidays next year with a feeling of fulfillment.

Be Temperate. Holidays can be days of excess for many—too much food, too many cookies and treats. One thing that will help you enjoy the holidays is to do things in moderation. Enjoy the food. Enjoy the treats. Enjoy the busy schedule of activities and parties. But also be disciplined enough to know when to hold back, when to say, "No." When we go overboard we regret it and lose the opportunity to fully experience that moment. But when we enjoy a little and refrain from going too far, then we can enjoy all that little piece of time has to offer.

Lower Your Expectations. Much of the frustration people experience from the holidays is from setting their expectations too high. They expect too much from friends or family, and when they don't get what they want, they get frustrated. They expect presents to be perfect and when they aren't, they get frustrated or disappointed. Instead of having huge expectations this holiday season, just take it as it comes and enjoy what you can.

Enjoy What You Can and Ignore the Rest: This holiday season, go with an attitude of knowing that things will be what they will be. You can't control other people or their actions. If a family member pushes the limits of your patience, ignore that and instead focus on how much you can enjoy the time you have with other family members. If things don't go perfectly—which they won't—then enjoy what you can and let the rest slide. You will feel a lot better about life if you can take all things a little easier.

Stay Out of Debt as much as possible: Debt is a killer. It will steal your enjoyment of life. Be sure to stay within your financial boundaries this holiday season. The last thing you want is to start the New Year with a deeper burden financially. Know where you are financially and stay within those limits. You don't have to impress anyone, just buy gifts that you can afford and express your feelings in the giving of the gift.

Take Time for Yourself. Be sure that, no matter how busy you get, you take time for yourself. Take time to read. Take a long bath if that relaxes you. Take a walk. Spend some time of quiet. Don't rush through the holidays and sap all of your energy. Your mind and body need to be reenergized, so be sure to take time to do so.

Focus on Your Spiritual Life. Ultimately, no matter what tradition you come from, the holidays are historically days in which we focus on the spiritual. Men and women are created with a natural draw toward spiritual life. However, our culture today tends to stay away from a focus on the spiritual, and that has even crept into our holidays. Be sure to place an emphasis on building your spiritual life and growing in that area. This will help keep you grounded and able to deal with anything that may come your way.

The very best to you and yours this holiday season, and my hope is that you move into January better than ever!

Professional Memberships:

- Better Business Bureau: an organization whose members are charged with working honestly and fairly with clients and customers, and also with providing quality products and services.
- The American Association for Justice: an organization devoted to protecting individual rights, and preserving the civil jury system in America.
- Florida Justice Association (formerly the Association of Florida Trial Lawyers): an organization devoted to protecting the rights of consumers and injured victims in Florida.
- Florida Bar
- Central Florida Trial Lawyers Association
- Orange County Bar Association



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The Seven Landmines to Avoid
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Not every accident case or work injury requires the expertise of an attorney, which is why we strongly encourage you to educate yourself about the law. We recommend that if you ever get injured on the job, that you first attempt to work it out with your employer, get proper medical care, and when better, get on with your job and life. However, if an issue arises where you feel the need to pursue a Florida workers' comp claim that you don't try it on your own, but that you immediately find the right attorney for your case. Our law firm also has resources for victims of car accidents, including the book, [Don't Destroy Your Florida Car Accident Case - The Seven Landmines to Avoid](#), written by Tony Francis. This informative book gives you insight into dealing with a Florida car accident and answers

the following questions:

- 1) How can I best protect myself prior to getting into an auto accident?
- 2) What happens generally after a collision?
- 3) What should I consider doing and not doing at the scene of a motor vehicle accident?
- 4) If I am injured in a motor vehicle accident, how do I go about getting medical care?
- 5) Should I have concerns about which doctor go to help with my injuries?
- 6) Should I hire an attorney?
- 7) How should I go about choosing an attorney?
- 8) What concerns should there be regarding my damaged car?
- 9) What concerns should I have when dealing with the insurance company adjuster/representative?

- 10) What are some of the common myths surrounding a car accident case?
- 11) What are some of the frequently asked questions clients ask, or things that are their major concerns?

At the Francis Law Group, you will be partnering with an Orlando car accident attorney or workers compensation lawyer who will guide you through the legal process. We only select a limited number of cases, so that we can devote our personal attention to you. Our law firm has earned a reputation of providing aggressive representation, as we do not hesitate to go head to head with the other side in recovering money for your injuries. Our team of professionals knows what it takes to prevail in obtaining justice for our clients.

TRIVIA SPOT

Christmas Trivia!!! Let's see how well you do.

1. What Christmas ballet is the most famous of all?
2. Who wrote the song "Here Comes Santa Claus"?
3. What does Alvin want for Christmas?
4. Where was Mommy kissing Santa Claus?
5. What is Frosty the Snowman's nose made of?

Answers are found on the bottom of the back page.

Thank You!



The Francis Law Group would like to thank you for referring your friends and family to us.

A large percentage of our clients are based on referrals from outstanding people like you!

Florida Traffic Laws That You May or May Not Know

Many of Florida's traffic laws seem like common sense. For example, it is illegal for a child younger than 6 to be left in a car that is running. On the other hand, there is no law restricting cell phone use while driving, which seems like an obvious choice for a new traffic law. Some others traffic laws that are not new but may surprise you:

Riding on the exterior of a vehicle

With certain exceptions, it is against the law for a person to ride on any part of a vehicle that is not designated for passengers. Including the roof, fenders, and hood. It also is illegal for persons under 18 to ride in the open bed of a truck unless seat belts are worn in order to keep them from being thrown, falling or jumping out of the vehicle.

It is a moving violation to allow it, and it is a non-moving violation to do it.

Seat belt violations

A seat belt must be worn by all front-seat occupants, and by anyone younger than 18, no matter where they are sitting. In pickup trucks, there must be a seat belt for each passenger. The driver is responsible for everyone under 18.

It is a moving violation to allow a child to ride without being properly restrained. It is a non-moving violation to not wear a seat belt.

A moving violation is three points on a driver's record.

Move over law

All drivers must move over when either a patrol car, emergency vehicle or a wrecker is stopped on the side of the road with their lights flashing. If it is unsafe to move over, then the driver must slow down to a speed of 20 mph below the speed limit.

Leaving children unattended law

Anyone responsible for a child under 6 may not leave the child unattended or unsupervised in a vehicle over 15 minutes. If the motor is running or the child's health is in danger, the child may not be left for any period of time.

Leaving a child unattended or unsupervised in a vehicle over 15 minutes is a second-degree misdemeanor. If the motor is running or the child is in danger, a fine of no less than \$50 or more than \$500 applies. If great bodily harm is caused, it is a third-degree felony.

Tints, lights and TV

Window tints must be light enough that they are still non-transparent. Installers must attach a sticker stating the tint is legal. Flashing lights are prohibited, except turn signals or to show the vehicle is legally stopped or disabled. Exemptions apply for certain vehicles.

With the exception of navigation systems, television-style receivers and DVD players may not be positioned so they can be seen by the driver.

Window tint, televisions and DVD players are non-moving violations. Improper use of lights is a moving violation.

Cell phones and food

There is no law against cell phone use. But driver's who are distracted by cell phones, eating or other activities will often violate other laws. These other laws can include; careless driving, failure to drive within a single lane and following too close, all of which are moving violations. A distracted driver loses the ability to perform the multiple tasks that driving requires.

Contact an experienced Florida accident lawyer at the Francis Law Group today at (888) 521-2721 for legal advice or visit our website at FrancisLawGroup.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Florida Highway Patrol suggests the following tips for safe Holiday travel:



- *Get plenty of rest before hitting the road*
- *Be aware of and obey all speed limits*
- *Drive sober*
- *Keep your eyes on the road. Do not text or talk on the cell phone, eat or adjust the radio while driving*
- *Check all vehicle fluids before heading out, such as oil, gas and windshield-wiper fluid. Check tire pressure and clean wipers*
- *Allow plenty of time to reach your destination*
- *Buckle up*



THE FRANCIS LAW GROUP

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STAY INFORMED

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Look for it!

We are now The Francis Law Group. We are providing some additional resources for our clients and friends, such as the free book offer, a monthly newsletter and a new website.

Visit us at
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So, how well did you do? Answers to trivia questions.

1. The Nutcracker
2. Gene Autry
3. A hula hoop
4. Under the mistletoe
5. A button

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Car Accident

If you were injured in a Florida car accident, you may be able to recover money for your injuries. Car accident claims can be difficult, which is why you need an experienced Florida car accident lawyer looking out for your best interests. Contact a Florida auto accident attorney today at the Francis Law Group at (407) 363-9939.

Contact an experienced Florida workers' compensation attorney at the Francis Law Group today at (407) 363-9939. We will help you receive the benefits in which you are entitled.

Reminder About Our Firm's Communication Policy

Our promise to you is that while we are working on your case, we don't take inbound phone calls, faxes or emails. Tony Francis takes no inbound unscheduled phone calls whatsoever. It makes him much more productive and helps get your case resolved faster. You can always call us at 407-363-9939, ask for my scheduling secretary, and schedule an in-person or phone appointment with Tony. If we are unavailable, please leave a message. Our policy is to get back to you as soon as possible and within 48 hours. This is a lot better than the endless game of "phone tag" played by most law firms today. Remember, too, that email is "quick", but is checked no more than twice a day. Replies are then scheduled into the calendar. So if it's really important, don't email—call my office instead.

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, Workers' Compensation and general life issues. It is not intended to be legal advice. Where information is regarding a legal matter, remember that every case is different. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.