

PERENICH Law INJURY ATTORNEYS

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WELCOME TO OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Perenich Law welcomes Kristen,
Chris, and Gladys!

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2nd Annual Turkey Giveaway!

Thank you to everyone who came out to our 2nd annual turkey giveaway! We had a great turnout and were thrilled we put a smile on so many people's faces! Also, a huge thank you to Countryside Cares Helping Hands for their help and partnering with us for the event!



SAFETY TIPS FOR DISTRACTED DRIVERS, CYCLISTS, AND PEDESTRIANS

Stopping distracted driving should be a top safety priority in Florida. People are distracted more now than ever with the ever-growing increase in technological advances. Bigger cell phones, tv monitors on dashboards, and handheld video game devices all add to the heightened distraction levels we see on the road today.

The most recent statistics from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) recorded nearly 48,500 distracted driving crashes in the state in a single year. Those collisions killed 300 people and left 2,700 more with serious bodily injuries.

Each time you get in your car and hit the road; you should be thinking of one thing: safety. Here are some safety precautions you should take when you get behind the wheel:

- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks. Make sure you are aware of flashing lights that alert drivers that a pedestrian is crossing.
- Slow down and obey the posted speed limit.
- Yield to pedestrians and cyclists when turning. They most likely have the right of way.
- Look before opening your door, especially on busy streets. You could potentially hit a passing vehicle or cyclist riding close by.
- Exercise care when passing stopped vehicles.
- Allow a minimum of three feet when passing bicyclists. Always look to make sure you have cleared their path before crossing over into their lane of travel.

Any activity that takes your eyes, hands, or focus away from the task of driving is a distraction. Some of the most common distractions that lead to accidents include:

1. Texting while driving - Texting behind the wheel is widely considered the most dangerous form of distracted driving. Texting and driving are illegal in the state of Florida. Texting or typing on a mobile device while driving is a primary offense, which means motorists can be pulled over and fined for it.
2. Cell phone use - Most everyone these days has a mobile device. Talking on the phone is considered safer if drivers use hands-free devices. Newer vehicles come equipped with Bluetooth technologies that allow for hands-free talking. Yet many studies suggest even hands-free cell phone use is still a distraction because drivers focus more on their conversation than the road.
3. Passengers - Drivers who interact with children, pets, or other vehicle passengers while driving put themselves and others at risk, especially if they turn around or take their hands off the wheel to deal with them. Drivers should refrain from having pets in the front seat because the pet may blind your ability to see the passenger-side mirror.
4. Personal grooming - It is not uncommon to see drivers applying makeup, combing their hair, or even changing clothes while driving in Florida.
5. Adjusting vehicle controls - Adjusting music, air conditioning, or GPS controls can easily take your attention away from the road long enough to cause an accident.
6. Eating or drinking - Most people have had a meal behind the wheel. A driver who is eating or drinking will take at least one hand off the wheel to do so. You should refrain from eating large meals behind the wheel. A small snack and drink are the wiser choice if you must eat on the go.

Safety Tips for Cyclists

Cyclists should follow the same rules as motorized vehicles. They should stop at stop signs, obey traffic signals and lane markings, and use hand signals to let drivers know their intent to stop or turn. Bicyclists have the same rights to the roadways as vehicle drivers. Accordingly, they should obey the same traffic laws.

Perenich Law Welcomes Kristen, Chris, & Gladys!



Kristen is a paralegal for Perenich Law. Kristen comes to us with a background in Medical Malpractice, Personal Injury, and Products Liability. She is also a Florida Registered Paralegal. Kristen has been in the legal industry since 2000. When she isn't at work helping others, she enjoys watching her son play baseball, attending local Tampa Bay sporting events, and hanging out with her two children. **Welcome aboard, Kristen!**

Chris is Perenich Law's Digital Marketing Specialist. We are excited to have him join our growing team! Chris comes to us with a background in Digital Media, writing, and SEO expertise. When Chris isn't working, he enjoys spending his free time at the beach or fishing.

Welcome aboard, Chris!



Gladys is a Paralegal for Perenich Law. We are excited to have her join our growing team! Gladys comes to us with a background in Personal Injury, Products Liability, and Admiralty law. She is very active in her church and enjoys staying healthy by kickboxing and physical training.

Welcome aboard, Gladys!



Favorite Christmas Breakfast Casserole

Prep: 20 Minutes
Total: 1 Hour 10 Minutes
Servings: 12

Ingredients:

- 1 lb ground breakfast sausage, any flavor
- 1 red or yellow bell pepper, chopped
- ½ onion, chopped
- 2 teaspoons salt
- Pepper to taste
- 1 loaf (8 cups, 1-inch cubes) Italian bread, Ciabatta or Baguette (crusty bread)
- 1 and ½ dozen (18) large eggs
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1 and ½ cups cheddar cheese, shredded

Steps:

1. Heat oven to 375 degrees F. Brown the sausage in a saute pan over medium heat for 3 minutes, breaking it into bite-size pieces. Add the onions, bell peppers, 1 tsp salt and pepper. Cook an additional 5 minutes. Let cool. Drain.
2. In a bowl, beat the eggs and milk. Add remaining salt and cheese; stir to combine.
3. Add the bread cubes and cooled sausage mixture to a greased 13x9-inch baking dish. Toss to combine.
4. Pour the egg mixture over the bread and sausage: press the bread mixture down gently to soak up some of the egg mixture.
5. Cover the dish with foil and bake for 30 minutes; uncover and bake an additional 20 minutes. Serve immediately.

Make yourself visible and wear the proper protective gear. Under Florida law, a bicycle rider or passenger must wear a properly fitting and secure helmet if they are under 16 years of age. Make eye contact with motorists to let them know you are there (but don't always expect them to see you). And stay visible by riding where drivers are looking. For example, avoid passing motor vehicles on the right side. Bicyclists should always be mindful of their visibility to other vehicles, especially when biking during rush hour or later. Riding a bike during dusk or nighttime entails reduced visibility by others on the road.



Furthermore, cyclists should be aware of their surroundings:

- Do not wear headphones; you need to hear if a car (or emergency vehicle) is approaching.
- Slow down and check for oncoming traffic before entering any street or intersection.
- Do your best to anticipate hazards and adjust your position in traffic accordingly.
- Be predictable: Do not weave in and out of parked cars where vehicle drivers cannot see you.

Tips for Walkers and Runners

Whether you are going for an afternoon stroll, commuting to work on foot, or getting some exercise, walking, and running are excellent activities. When walking or exercising, especially in the early morning



or at dusk or dark, pedestrians should keep in mind the following:

- Walkers should use signalled crosswalks when possible. Use extreme caution when crossing at intersections without signals.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.
- Never run between cars into the street.
- Wear clothing that allows people to see you. That means no dark clothes after dark or early in the morning.
- Exercising outdoors at dusk or night can be dangerous without a reflective device on your clothing. Many athletic shoes are made with reflective material. Consider also a vest complete with bright reflective tape.

Were you or a loved one involved in a crash in Clearwater? Do you have questions about what you should know about your accident claim? Contact our experienced Clearwater Traffic Accident Lawyers at Perenich Law Injury Attorneys today for a free consultation and case evaluation.

Our law firm handles cases for victims wrongfully injured by the negligence of others. Let us fight for you and your family.

Timothy B. Perenich, Esquire

4TH ANNUAL MITCHELL SWAYZE PAGE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Perenich Law was a proud sponsor of the 4th Annual Mitchell Swayze Page Tennis Tournament. Every year, the tournament benefits the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Congratulations to the committee who put on the event. The tennis tournament successfully raised \$16,000 this year!



5 Holiday Shopping Season Tips

As the holiday shopping season quickly approaches, please, take time to ensure you have a safe and happy holiday season. Here are nine steps to follow to ensure your holiday shopping season is a safe one.

1. Always be aware of your surroundings, day or night. Keep an eye out for suspicious persons or activity, especially in confined areas.
2. Remember where you parked your car. During the holidays, parking lots tend to get overcrowded, and you may have to walk a far distance from your car to the entry of the store. It's wise to remember some permanent items around your car's location for reference. Becoming flustered and confused can cause you stress that may present you as an easy target for a criminal.
3. Try and shop with a partner, if possible. Shopping in a group will make it much more difficult for a criminal attack.
4. Don't carry large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with checks, credit, and or debit cards. Carry cash and wallets in a front pocket to reduce your chances of having your pocket picked.
5. Avoid leaving any item of value in your parked car. Always conceal these items in your glove box or trunk.