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The total amount of loss, injury or damages the greater weight of the evidence shows will fairly and adequately compensate the plaintiff, including any damages he or she is reasonably certain to incur or experience in the future.



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# CLIENT CONNECTION



## WELCOME TO OUR QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Ben and Mariana were our two summer interns this year.



Ben is our summer Law Clerk. He received his undergrad degree in finance from Florida State University. Ben is going into his third and final year of law school at Florida State. His hobbies for the upcoming year are watching the Pittsburgh Steelers win the Super Bowl.

Mariana is currently a student at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. She is majoring in Criminal Justice with a minor in Legal Studies. Mariana enjoys going to the beach and watching the sunset with a good book!

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### 02 Back to school safety

Now that the school year has started, it's a great opportunity to remind ourselves of the safety of our children.

#### 03 Perenich Halloween Party

The Perenich staff enjoyed a spooky-good time on Halloween with pizza, treats, and a costume contest.

#### 04 Golf Cart Accidents

Pursuing a lawsuit against a golf cart owner could be your best path toward fair compensation.



## BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

Now that the school year has started, it's a great opportunity to remind ourselves of the safety of our children. While this blog is not an exhausting list of school safety measures, it is a short list of some of the things we can do to promote a safe environment here in Florida.

**1. School Zones:** Whether you have school children or not, please observe school zones. Know where the school zone starts and where it ends. If the speed limit is 20 miles per hour, keep your speed down to that limit or lower. Pay attention to everything going on around you. This is not the opportunity to catch up on text messages, emails and posts on Instagram. Sometimes kids do unexpected things. You don't want to be caught off guard if a child darts into the roadway in front of you. Sometimes a child riding a bike may not know the rules of the road. It doesn't take much imagination to guess what would happen to a child if he strays from the sidewalk, cross walk or bike path into your lane. If you are observing the speed limit, you significantly improve your chances of avoiding a serious accident.

**2. School Buses:** If a school bus in front of you starts to slow down, don't try to beat it before the red lights start flashing. Children entering or exiting a bus often cross a roadway to get to the bus. It's important that traffic has stopped so that children can cross the road safely. By the same token, if you are traveling from the opposite direction as the school bus, unless there is a median or physical separation between your lane and the lane where the bus is stopping, please come to a complete stop so that children can safely enter or exit the bus.

**3. School Car Lines:** If you have children, you are probably all too familiar with the heavy traffic and the busy car lines for drop off and pick up. Most of the parents sitting in their cars waiting in line are dropping off a child on their way to work or somewhere else very important. No doubt, you've seen other parents tell their kids to hop out on the passenger side and walk on the sidewalk or curb leading up to the school. This is a bad idea. In the first place, it demonstrates to your child that following the rules is optional and subject to your whims and conveniences. How much time are you really saving for this risky short cut? Better to wait your turn as the line slowly progresses forward.

As with all other driving tips, one of the most important is that you pay attention. If you are sitting behind the wheel waiting for the car line to move forward, and you are busy checking your email, replying to text messages, playing Pokemon Go or applying makeup, there's a good chance you will hold up the line. If you think you are saving time, you are actually doing the opposite. You're not making the drivers behind you happy either.

**4. Kids on Bikes:** If your son or daughter rides the bike to school, make sure they are wearing a properly fitted helmet and safety gear. It's not a bad idea to do a dry run the day before school starts where you are riding behind them observing how they ride.

Make sure your child knows the proper hand signals for turning left or right and coming to a stop. Instruct them as to the side of the road they should be travelling, either with traffic or on a designated bike path. Even on a bike path, if the path accommodates bicycles going both ways, make sure your child understands to stay on the right to let others pass.

Not every neighborhood is safe for children. Make sure your child understands the importance of taking the same path every day. Otherwise, your child might wander into an unsafe neighborhood looking for a shortcut. Moreover, if your child always

## Swimming Related Accidents

Unfortunately, Florida has one of the highest rates of swimming related injuries and deaths.

Here are some common swimming accident injuries to keep in mind.

Swimming accidents can occur in a variety of ways. Most often, swimming accidents happen from lack of supervision.



### Drowning

Fatal drowning can occur because of:

- A child falling into a swimming pool, especially unattended or after sneaking onto the property
- Entrapment due to cords, toys, or unsafe items in the pool
- A lack of lifeguards
- A lack of posted warnings about a water source or its depth

Drowning can also include near-drowning, in which the person inhales water and suffers from a loss of oxygen but does not die from those injuries. Near-drowning incidents can lead to brain injury due to a lack of oxygen. In some pools, inhaling heavy concentrations of chlorine can also cause lung injury, including burn-like injuries, which may require an extended stay in the hospital and can even lead to permanent consequences.

### Head Injuries

Head injuries occur most often when someone dives into shallow water. Often, those dives happen because the person did not receive an adequate warning about the depth or because the pool or water source did not have the labeled amount of water in it. Head injuries from diving into shallow water can cause memory deficits, including problems with short-term and long-term memory. Head injuries can also occur if a swimmer comes up sharply underneath a diving board or other feature that sits too close to the water or slips and falls on the pool deck.

### Spinal Cord Injuries

Like head injuries, spinal cord injuries often result from diving into too-shallow water. Spinal cord injuries may, in many cases, lead to permanent paralysis.

### Electrocution

Many pool owners use underwater lights to help light up the pool at night. Owners may also use other electrical items to help clean the water or offer more fun to their visitors. Electricity around water, however, can pose a hazard when not properly grounded or shielded. Sometimes, electricity can result in electrocution injuries.

## 4 tips to Save on Gas Prices

1. Debit cards or cash
  - a. Stations can charge 10 to 15 cents more per gallon for credit card purchases.
2. Get Rewards
  - a. Many stations offer rewards to loyal customers.
3. Fuel Finding apps!
  - a. GasBuddy, AAA, and Gas Guru
4. Slow down
  - a. Slow your acceleration speeds and keep your highway speeds under 75 mph. Studies show reducing your speed to 65 mph on the highway can increase fuel economy as much as 15 to 20 percent.

References:  
<https://www.consumerreports.org/saving-money/how-to-save-money-at-the-gas-pump-a8520505361/>





takes the same route, you will have more peace of mind knowing where they are and not merely where they should be. More importantly, instruct your child about “stranger danger.” A child should never approach a vehicle where an adult is beckoning, let alone stop to have a conversation. Traveling in groups is a good idea to avoid a dangerous situation with a person with bad intentions.

5. Teens behind the Wheel: Motor vehicle collisions constitute the second leading cause of death for teenagers in the United States according to the CDC.<sup>1</sup> These are preventable and there are strategies that improve safety for young drivers.

Make sure your child has plenty of supervised experience behind the wheel before they start driving alone. We recommend enrolling your child in a driver safety course. Not only will it likely reduce your insurance premiums, it will also better prepare your child for what may come as they drive. If you have the temperament to encourage your teen driver who has a learner’s permit, you should spend regular time with him or her, even if only fifteen minutes a day or an hour a week. Your goal should be to warn and correct but also to encourage.

We at PERENICH LAW Injury Attorneys frequently talk about distracted driving because we have seen, all too often, what havoc it can cause. This topic is particularly important as you consider your child’s conduct behind the wheel. We suggest that your teen be required to leave the cell phone and any other device in the trunk of the car. If there is

an emergency, more than likely they will be able to pull off the road to get it. Make sure your child understands that driving is a privilege not a right and that you will not hesitate to remove that privilege unless he or she complies with your expectations. The National Safety Council has published a “New Driver Deal”<sup>2</sup> that can set forth your expectations as well as your teen’s. Interestingly, you will find that the language in that document also prescribes better habits for you. After all, your child learns from you more from your example than your words.

We at PERENICH Law Injury Attorneys represent those who are injured as a result of motor negligence. We are 3 Brothers Helping Others. If you or a loved one is involved in a car or bicycle accident, call us for a free consultation and case evaluation.

<sup>1</sup>[https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/teen\\_drivers/teendrivers\\_factsheet.html](https://www.cdc.gov/transportationsafety/teen_drivers/teendrivers_factsheet.html)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.nsc.org/road/resources/dih/new-driver-deal?>

## Perenich Halloween Party

Our staff enjoyed a spooky-good time during a recent firm lunch and a costume contest. Liyelis Gonzalez, a member of the Spanish-speaking team here at the law firm, won the costume contest. Her costume representing Cruella de Vil won the most votes! Congrats, Liyelis, on your win!





# GOLF CART ACCIDENTS

Golf carts are all over Florida, particularly among communities built around golf courses. These vehicles offer convenience and a method of transportation that costs less than the average motor vehicle. Despite these benefits, accidents are also commonplace.

Just like an auto accident or a hit-and-run, it is imperative to identify who is at fault in a golf cart accident and hold them accountable. If you suffered an injury after a golf cart accident in Florida, our firm can help evaluate your case and get you the compensation you deserve.



While these vehicles lack the size and speed of a motor vehicle, the damage they can cause is still significant.

There are many ways that negligence could lead to a golf cart accident. For example, a driver could operate a golf cart under the influence of drugs or alcohol, travel at unsafe speeds, or drive recklessly.



Proving negligence in a golf cart accident is similar to motor vehicle collisions. Most people don't practice driving golf carts, which can lead to risky behavior and injuries.

## **A Lawsuit May Be the Best Course of Action**

Pursuing a lawsuit against the golf cart owner could be your best path toward fair compensation.

A benefit of pursuing compensation from the golf cart owner is that they could have an insurance policy in place. Insurance coverage on golf carts is common among commercial properties or businesses that borrow or rent golf carts.

An attorney from our firm will help you pursue a lawsuit or file an insurance claim against the owner of a golf cart while you focus on your health and healing.

Our Clearwater golf cart accident attorneys are ready to pursue your injury claim. We can help you negotiate a fair settlement or pursue a lawsuit against the party that caused the crash.

Call us today for a free legal consultation at 727-669-2828, or visit [3brothershelpingothers.com](http://3brothershelpingothers.com)