



Corradino & Papa, LLC

A Personal Injury Law Firm

973-574-1200



Your Biggest Accident Could Be Your Choice of Attorney

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Welcome Tiffany

School's back in session...
please be extra careful

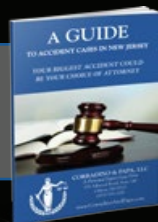
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AIRLINE TICKET REFUNDS AND **federal law**

The frustration caused by a flight change, delay, or cancellation is made worse when the airline drags its feet in compensating you for your trouble. However, air travelers have protections pertaining to ticket refunds, changes, or cancellations—even for nonrefundable tickets. Some airlines have their own internal policies in place, but federal laws and regulations are the driving force behind traveler protection, as large fines and other sanctions may be levied against airlines.

Air travelers have the right to “conspicuous” notice of any terms that restrict refunds of ticket prices, raise ticket prices, or assess monetary penalties upon travelers. These terms must be displayed on the ticket or with accompanying paperwork.

Travelers enjoy the right of having their reservation held at the quoted fare for 24 hours without payment. In addition, travelers can receive a full refund if they cancel their reservation within 24 hours. These rules apply only if the reservation is made at least seven days prior to the departure date. Airlines must also clearly post this rule on their website, and customer service personnel must disclose the information upon request.

Federal law states that those travelers involuntarily bumped from their flights are to be provided with a written statement explaining their rights and how the carrier decides who gets on an overbooked flight. Travelers may be entitled to compensation, depending on the price of their ticket and the length of the delay. Request a check; avoid travel vouchers.

If an airline refuses to provide you with an entitled refund, you can file a consumer complaint with the Department of Transportation. Or, contact an attorney specializing in aviation law to protect your rights. ■



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welcome Tiffany



Tiffany Glenn Burress concentrates on Workers Compensation and Personal Injury matters including Construction Accidents, Motor Vehicle and Trucking Accidents, Wrongful Death, Premises Liability and Dog Bites. Ms. Burress attended Penn State University for her undergraduate studies and Duquesne University School of Law for her Juris Doctorate. Ms. Burress interned for the Honorable Donetta W. Ambrose, the former Chief Federal Judge of the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Burress is licensed to practice law in the State of New Jersey and the State of New York. Ms. Burress has been recognized as a New Jersey Super Lawyer in 2012, Top Attorney for Bergen County in 2012, Woman of the Year for the NAPW (National Association of Professional Women) and presented with the House of Representative's Citation from the Commonwealth of

Pennsylvania for outstanding achievements.

Ms. Burress is married with two children and is a board member of the New Jersey Global Charter School. Ms. Burress is a skilled attorney who will fight for your rights in order to receive maximum awards for her clients. ■

school's back in session...

PLEASE BE EXTRA CAREFUL

Around 55 million children are walking or biking to school, or having to navigate school zones after being dropped off from a vehicle or bus. Unfortunately, these areas aren't always safe: it's estimated that over 100 children are killed each year heading to or from school, and another 25,000 are injured. Our firm strongly encourages you to follow these key school-zone driving rules:

- Be prepared for anything; kids do unexpected things;
- Stop completely at all stop signs and crosswalks;
- Obey the posted speed limits;
- Put your cell phone away;
- Pay attention to bus warning lights (yellow means the bus is stopping; red means children are getting off or on the bus) and give buses plenty of room (children are at greatest risk of being hit within 10 feet of the school bus);
- Follow the school's drop-off and pick-up rules;
- If you are a commuter and don't have to drop off kids at school, try to find an alternative route to work that keeps you away from the school zone.



Let's all do what we can to keep our children safe this and every school year. ■

sports concussions

FOOTBALL EXCLUSIVE

Thanks to media attention spotlighting the National Football League (NFL) concussion case that reached a settlement in April 2015 and the immense popularity of football overall, many people believe that sports concussions are predominantly a “football problem.” Not true.

In fact, according to the National Academy of Sciences, although football has the highest number of athletes sustaining concussions, due to larger roster sizes, other sports equal or surpass football in concussion rates per athletic exposure—for instance, lacrosse, field hockey, soccer, wrestling, and ice hockey. Concussion effects may last for a few days, or endure for years. Sometimes symptoms are delayed and might only become evident weeks or months after the initial injury. Repeated concussions can produce cumulative damage, leading to chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a degenerative brain disease.

Increased concussion awareness has prompted many athletic organizations to take measures to mitigate the concussion factor. For example, the NFL has refocused efforts on teaching proper hitting techniques and altered its rules. Some collegiate conferences have introduced limits to contact in football practices. Pee wee hockey leagues in the United States and Canada have banned body checking. Youth soccer leagues have restricted or eliminated heading the ball.

Athletic culture must be combated as well. Many athletes, coaches, and parents are reluctant to identify or report concussions. Players may fear losing their “spots”; coaches don’t want to lose their best players. It is estimated that roughly 50 percent of sports-related concussions go unreported each year.

Concussions can’t be completely eliminated from the athletic arena; however, improved technique and training, further education and research, and baseline concussion testing for all athletes are tools to reverse their momentum. ■



September 2016 – Important Dates

September 5 – Labor Day
September 11 – Grandparents’ Day
September 11 – Patriot Day
September 22 – Fall Begins



SELF-DRIVING CARS AND liability issues

Self-driving cars are emerging on the nation’s roadways. A computer is at the helm on these vehicles, so liability issues are murky for the moment. With up to 10 million cars estimated to be outfitted with self-driving features by the year 2020, things had better crystallize quickly.

In theory, it appears that self-driving cars’ owners/passengers would avert liability issues in an auto accident, since they’re not driving the car (the computer is). In addition, if self-driving cars are truly safer than vehicles fully operated by humans, accident rates should decline once more of them hit the road. In either case, it stands to reason that insurance premiums should drop.

On the flip side, however, if self-driving vehicles’ owners/passengers are not liable, it likely means car manufacturers will be. So any drop in insurance premiums will be offset with jacked-up car prices.

Self-driving cars still require the owner to pay attention and to be ready to manually intervene if necessary. Even if the computer is technically driving the car, could an owner be found partially liable if he/she wasn’t paying attention? In states with contributory negligence laws, a driver found even one percent at fault will not be eligible to recover damages from the other driver.

Self-driving vehicle liability issues are currently in a state of flux. If you purchase a self-driving vehicle, pay attention to the road, familiarize yourself with the user agreement and instructions, research state laws on self-driving vehicles, and ask your insurance company for policy clarification. Contact an auto accident attorney to review your user agreement or to protect your rights if you are involved in an auto accident. ■

935 Allwood Road, Clifton, NJ 07012



FREE BOOK

Get Jack Corradino and Robert Papa's *New Ultimate Guide to Accident Cases in NJ*, written by Jack and RC. It will explain "Why your biggest accident could be your choice of attorney", and what to do in the event you are injured.

Quote of the Month: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." —Mark Twain

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

children's obligations

FOR A PARENT'S NURSING HOME BILLS

As parents age, there may come a time when they need to stay in a long-term care facility for several months or more. Parental-support laws, also known as filial support, are on the books in over half of U.S. states and Puerto Rico. Under certain circumstances, when an elderly patient is unable to pay their nursing home-related bills, their children may be on the hook.

Filial responsibility laws are rarely enforced, but with the coming baby-boomer retirement wave and extended life expectancies, anything is possible, as nursing homes seek ways to recoup some of the costs they are owed. Most senior citizens who can't pay their nursing home bills are eligible for federal assistance from Medicaid. Federal law prohibits the pursuit of payment from adult children in these cases.

Medicare may cover nursing home expenses in some scenarios, but only for a maximum of 100 days. At that point, if a resident does not have long-term care insurance, they will have to deplete their own financial resources until they are eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid coverage can be retroactive for up to three months from the time of application. It's the gap in private resources and eligibility for Medicaid coverage where medical bills can skyrocket—and render adult children in filial support states more vulnerable to nursing home lawsuits. A child's ability to pay is taken into account in all circumstances.

Seek the assistance of an experienced elder law attorney when a parent enters a nursing facility, not when they are about to run out of money. He or she can help you plan, file applications, and successfully navigate the filial responsibility landscape. ■

