

The Road To Justice Starts Here



PURCHASE GEORGE
& MURPHEY P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Car & Truck Accidents | Civil Litigation | Medical Malpractice | DUI | Criminal Defense

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REFERRALS

We appreciate your referrals of family & friends. Show them you care enough to help.

833-7100

driving in winter weather

Avoid "weather-related" accidents this winter with vehicle readiness and proper driving practices.

- ✓ Make sure your washer fluid is topped off; you can use it up quickly over the winter. You might want to keep an extra bottle in the trunk, just in case. A new set of wiper blades can improve winter visibility, too.
- ✓ Double-check your antifreeze/coolant to make sure it's not low. Also, don't wait too long before changing it. Coolant has additives that prevent boiling, freezing, and corrosion. If it's too old, the additives will break down, reducing the coolant's effectiveness.
- ✓ Buy winter/snow tires! Where we live they're well worth the expense. In our region, we encourage everyone to spend the money on winter tires. It's a small price to pay for the safety and wellbeing to you, your family, and the motorists on the road. If you settle for so-called "all season" tires, then check your tire tread to make sure it's up to the task. Place a penny headfirst into the tread. If you can see Honest Abe's head, it's time for new tires. Properly inflated tires help maintain optimum steering and stopping control. Consult your owner's manual for the recommended psi.
- ✓ Batteries should be tested before the winter, especially if they're more than 3 years old. Battery life can vary, based on conditions and usage. So don't take chances.
- ✓ If your car begins to fishtail on snow-covered roadways, don't panic. Lay off the gas and steer in the direction you want the front wheels to go, whether it's the front or back of the car that's drifting. When braking on slick surfaces, gently pump standard brakes. Apply constant pressure with antilock (ABS) brakes – no pumping necessary.
- ✓ Roads can freeze even if the atmospheric temperature is above freezing. Black ice may lurk in low-lying areas, shady patches, and on bridges. Slow down and increase your following distance on slippery roads; doubling it is a good rule of thumb at low speeds, even more at higher speeds.

May you reach all your destinations safely this winter! ■



don't let a DUI ruin your holiday:

HAVE AN “EXIT STRATEGY” FOR EVERY PARTY

The holidays bring many opportunities for us to enjoy good food, friends, family and our favorite libations. The annual office parties, family gatherings and New Year's Eve celebrations create choices about how much we will drink and how we will get home.

The results of excessive drinking and driving can be tragic. An accident caused by drunk driving can take an innocent life – and change other lives forever. Even when drunk driving doesn't result in an accident the price can be steep.

A conviction for DUI results in prison (or at least “house arrest”), a mandatory fine, costs and fees for being placed on probation and a driver's license suspension for one year. Other costs may include the lawyer fee, DUI classes, probation fees, interlock ignition systems, an increase in your car insurance premium for now being a high risk insured, the inconvenience of losing your license, meetings with your lawyer and appearing in court two or three times. The total cost can exceed \$10,000.00.

So, enjoy the holidays, the office parties and your time together with family and friends. But have an “exist strategy” for every party occasion. Use a designated driver. Phone a friend if you have too much. Call a cab. Call Uber. Although we defend the freedom of those who face allegations of DUI, we would prefer that you be safe and help others to be safe during the holidays and throughout the year. For more about DUI in Pennsylvania, visit www.PurchaseGeorge.com or call Purchase, George & Murphey, P.C. at 833-7100 for a copy of *Defending Freedom: The Ultimate Guide to DUI Cases in Pennsylvania (3rd Edition)*. ■



cell phone usage AND AUTO ACCIDENTS



Distracted driving is a serious problem in this country. Driver distractions may be *visual*, taking your eyes off the road; *manual*, taking your hands off the wheel; or *cognitive*, taking your mind off driving. Cell phone usage is a major contributor to distracted driving. Texting has the dubious distinction of involving visual, manual, and cognitive distraction simultaneously. If you are the victim of another driver's negligence, it may be necessary to

file a personal injury claim against the at-fault driver to receive rightful compensation. It may seem a daunting task to prove that a driver was distracted by cell phone usage, but an experienced auto accident attorney can gather the following evidence to prove your case:

- **Witness testimony.** Witnesses to the accident may report that the driver was looking down when the accident occurred (due to texting) or that he/she was talking on a phone.
- **Video evidence.** Cameras are everywhere these days. Many traffic signals, street signs, store fronts, and trucks have them. An attorney can obtain access to potentially valuable evidence.
- **Cell phone records.** This one's a biggie. Cell phone records are admissible as evidence in the courtroom. If the records show the driver was using their phone at the time of the accident, your case is instantly bolstered.

Auto accident attorneys at Purchase, George & Murphey, P.C. can also glean important information from medical records, police reports, and accident reconstruction reports.

Driving is a major endeavor unto itself and deserves our full attention. Lives can be changed dramatically in an instant. If you've been injured by a distracted driver, call us to protect your rights. ■

a new year's resolution

WORTH ONE MILLION DOLLARS TO DRIVERS

The holiday season prompts us to reflect upon the many good things that happened during the past year. It is also a time to plan for another happy and prosperous New Year, filled with lots of smart decisions for you and your family. Here's a resolution that we recommend every year to our families and friends.

Stop buying minimal coverage for your auto insurance. Get a \$1,000,000 full-tort policy today!

This may sound too expensive to some people. Well, the big surprise for our friends and family is the relatively low price of improving their car insurance compared to the high cost of a hospital stay or lost income due to missed work.

Medical bills can pile up quickly, especially if you are in a high impact collision. And you won't just count those bills by thousands of dollars. We see cases where bills are tallied by the tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars. In these cases, the minimal insurance policy evaporates quickly. (We have attended fundraisers for friends and clients who were seriously injured in accidents. Events, like theirs, are all too common these days when there is not enough insurance to cover medical and rehabilitation bills.)

You're probably asking, "What about the other driver's insurance?" Unfortunately, it is likely that the other driver has equally inadequate insurance. And in many cases, the other driver has no insurance at all. We call these kinds of cases "insurance coverage tragedies." (You can learn more about them in our free book, *A Roadmap to Justice: The Ultimate Guide to Car Accident Cases in Pennsylvania*.)

You can do something to prevent this from happening to you and your family.

Spend a little more to get a lot more coverage. Depending on your driving record, an increase in your policy from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 will only raise your yearly rate by a few hundred dollars.

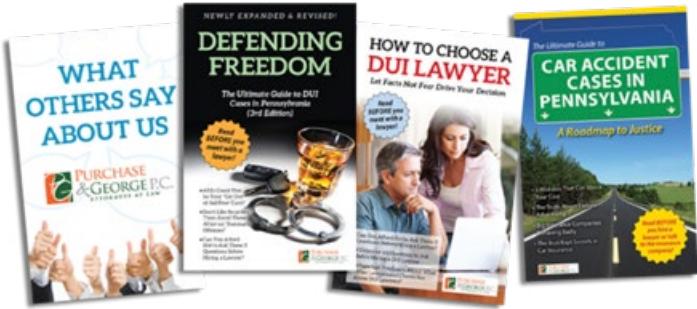
Want another good reason to increase your car insurance coverage? Think about how much money you make at your current job. What if you were unable to work? How much would you need to support your family?

Call your insurance agent today to get a better policy. Get the "full tort" option with a million dollars of uninsured/underinsured motorist's coverage. And "stack" the limits. You now know how important this policy can be. So make this one of your New Year's resolutions. It's really smart, more affordable than you might think, and easy to do. ■





Free Books



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.

Holiday Wishes

At this very special time of year, all of us here at Purchase, George & Murphey, P.C. wish you and yours a holiday season filled with joy, peace and happiness. Cherish the time spent with family and friends as you create memories that will last a lifetime. May 2018 be your best year yet!

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