

# The Road To Justice Starts Here

February 2018



**PURCHASE GEORGE  
& MURPHEY P.C.**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



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

## what's inside

### page 2

How to stay safe on the roads this winter season

### page 3

How to stay safe on the roads this winter season (cont.)

### page 4

Read The label: prescription drugs can result in DUI

## REFERRALS

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

833-7100

# accident victims can get help

## EVEN IF THEY CAN'T AFFORD A LAWYER

One of the most common reasons that personal injury victims avoid retaining the services of a qualified lawyer is because they are under the impression that they cannot afford one. One important distinction to realize is that many personal injury lawyers helping victims work on a contingency fee basis. They also tend to offer free consultations such that you can schedule a meeting and determine your eligibility for filing a legal claim without having to worry about whether or not you can afford it. The contingency fee means that your lawyer only collects money if he or she is successful in negotiating a settlement for you or helps you achieve a verdict for your compensation.

The free consultation and the contingency fee work together to give you peace of mind that you can retain an attorney that you can trust. Personal injury lawyers operate very differently from lawyers in many other practice areas.

Rather than maintaining an upfront expensive fee or hourly fees that can lead to extensive bills, your personal injury lawyer has a big motivation to recover full and fair compensation in your case through a settlement or through a trial verdict because he or she only gets paid if they are successful in doing that. This means that you can focus on what is most important immediately after your accident such as getting



medical treatment for your injuries and enabling yourself to recover as much as possible.

Let your personal injury attorney do the work of negotiating with the insurance company and preparing your case for trial so that you have the best chance of making a full recovery from your medical conditions. Make sure you rely on the free consultation and the contingency fee to help you navigate the complicated personal injury system. It may seem overwhelming to approach this issue on your own but you do not have to go through the legal system alone. Hiring a knowledgeable attorney can help you with this process significantly and may ease your fears about your concerns of an attorney being expensive.

The personal injury lawyers at Purchase, George & Murphey, P.C. are here for you after an accident – contact us today at (814) 833-7100. ■



# how to stay safe

## ON THE ROADS THIS WINTER SEASON

Far too many preventable accidents happen during the winter months and over the holiday season, which has the potential to do damage and leave life-lasting consequences for people who are hurt. Many people traveled to be with family during the holidays such as during Christmas and New Years Eve, which are, in fact, some of the most popular travel times of the year.

Many travelers are concerned with getting to their destinations as quickly as possible, but fail to consider the best safety measures. Some of the most important tips may not only make your ride more enjoyable and allow you to focus on family time but could decrease the chances of severe injuries or even fatalities. These include:

- ✓ Making adjustments before you begin driving such as with your GPS.
- ✓ Appointing someone else to serve as the navigator or to assist you with challenges you encounter while driving.
- ✓ Put away electronic devices to avoid the temptation and dangers of distracted driving.
- ✓ Avoid multi-tasking so that you have plenty of time in order to get to your destination.

- ✓ Take stops. Many people get frustrated with longer drives and extensive traffic, but taking time to stretch your legs, go to the bathroom, and enjoy a meal can make you more focused on the road and give you a break from driving.
- ✓ Pass any requests to passengers. If there is anything that could remove your attention from the road such as changing the radio station or updating the GPS, ask a passenger to do it for you.
- ✓ Double check safety restraints before you go. Far too many children are injured in accidents because the car seats were not installed properly.
- ✓ Never let pets remain loose in the vehicle. Wearing a seat belt is the law for humans, but your pets can become a big distraction and can even be put in severe danger if you are not careful.

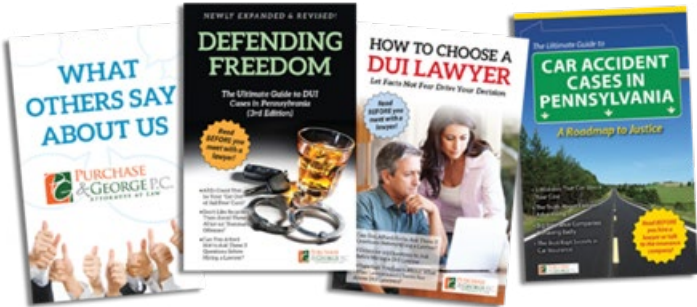
Thinking about your plans before you leave the house is a great way to approach all of these safety risks and avoid the significant consequences of being hurt in a winter driving accident. You cannot afford to run the risk of being critically injured and paying the price in the form of a personal injury claim.

Have you already been in an accident due to holiday travel? If so, the legal team at Purchase, George & Murphey, P.C. will evaluate your case. Call (814) 833-7100. ■





# 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.

## read the label

### PRESCRIPTION DRUGS CAN RESULT IN DUI

In Pennsylvania, when we hear that someone is charged with DUI, we tend to assume that the person was driving under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs (like marijuana or cocaine), or a combination of both. However, DUI simply means driving while impaired by any substance to a degree that renders one incapable of driving safely.



The “impairment” which triggers a DUI can even include legal drugs like the prescription medicines you probably have in your medicine cabinet at home. Some prescriptions and even some over-the-counter medicines are powerful enough to impair your ability to safely operate a vehicle – and many even say so right on the label. Many of these legal drugs cause you to feel drowsy and can impair your ability to react quickly or affect your otherwise sound judgment. Common legal drugs that can impair one’s driving ability include stimulants, sedatives, antidepressants, and narcotic analgesics.

One of the issues unique to DUI based upon prescription drugs is the lack of an objective method of measuring impairment. For example, when someone is driving under the influence of alcohol, his or her blood-alcohol level (BAC) can be measured in numerical form. That numerical form is often determined by a laboratory and the results are deemed by statute to be either above or below the minimum threshold at which a motorist is presumed to be impaired, e.g., .08%.

This is not so with prescription drugs, for which the statute is silent concerning a minimum threshold for many pharmaceuticals. At Purchase, George & Murphey, P.C., we have defended motorists facing allegations of DUI (prescription Drugs) in Pennsylvania even when the amount of lawfully prescribed medicine was within the therapeutic range, according to the prescribing doctor.

So, a word to the wise. Read the labels on your prescription medications and over-the-counter drugs. If drowsiness is a potential side-effect or a warning states that you should not operate a motor vehicle or heavy equipment when using the medicine, exercise caution, ask a friend or family member to drive for you. If you or a loved one faces an allegation of DUI in Pennsylvania stemming from the use of prescription medications or other drugs, call Purchase, George & Murphey, P.C. We can explain your options and protect your rights. ■