

THE DODSON LAW FIRM

INJURIES AND WRONGFUL DEATH

May 2009

Remembering Memorial Day

May 25, 2009

Captain John Rasmussen was late for Physical Training. It was raining heavily, and traffic was at a standstill all the way up to Fort Campbell in Kentucky. On his left was Memorial Grove, a tribute built to those soldiers who died in the 1985 Gander airplane crash—one of the deadliest deployment accidents in the history of the 101st Airborne Division.

Growing impatient, the Captain noticed that the monument was decorated with hundreds of small American flags arranged in neat little rows. Memorial Day on a military base usually meant seeing a lot of these little flags.

The traffic started moving. As Captain Rasmussen thanked his lucky stars and imagined himself arriving at training on time, one of the cars in front of him stopped unexpectedly. Annoyed by the driver, Rasmussen wondered what could be so important to merit the further delay. A young soldier jumped out of the car and ran towards the monument in the pouring rain, ignoring the sounds of honking cars and livid commuters. Captain Rasmussen watched in amazement as the soldier bent down and picked up one of the fallen flags, placed it upright, and stood at a respectful salute before dashing back to his car. Rasmussen was deeply moved by the young soldier's gesture: "That soldier, whose name I will never know, taught me more about duty, honor, and respect than a hundred books or a thousand lectures."

This Memorial Day, remember and honor those who gave their lives in the name of American Freedom, as well as those who currently serve.

*Our Mission is to Level the Playing Field between
Accident Victims and Insurance Companies*

**We Appreciate Your
Referrals**



Jim's new photo is featured on the website for the firm. Visit www.JwDodsonLaw.com to view and experience our changes we have made!

Jim Speaks at Mid-County Bar Meeting



Jim Dodson was the featured speaker at the April 2009 meeting of the Pinellas Mid-County Bar Association held at the historic Belleview Biltmore Hotel. Mr. Dodson's presentation was based on Napoleon Hill's, Think and Grow Rich, one of the most influential books of all time dealing with personal success. He encouraged the lawyers in attendance to learn the secret of success passed to Napoleon Hill by 19th century, steel industrialist and philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie. Hill's classic writings have provided the foundation for virtually all motivational writers since. These writings are based on understanding the concepts of focusing the mind on the positive things one wants to achieve **and** taking specifically designed steps toward achieving those goals and dreams.

The Dodson Law Firm
Tel: 727-446-0840
Fax: 727-446-0850

James W. Dodson P.A.

1259 Myrtle Avenue South
Clearwater, Florida 33756
Email: jim@jwdodsonlaw.com



Ask Jim

Question: Recently, I was waiting to cross a road with traffic blocking three lanes. The driver of the car closest to that lane caught my eye and waved me on, signaling it was “all clear.” Just as I passed him I was hit by a car I could not see coming in the open lane. Am I liable for my damages or is the driver who gave me the “all clear” sign?

Answer: This common situation creates all kinds of potential issues in sorting out who is liable. Obviously, if the car proceeding in the open lane is traveling too fast for conditions, the driver could be found liable. But they will argue you should be held partially at fault under Florida's comparative fault law for entering the lane without being able to see if it was clear. In some situations you could be held entirely at fault for failing to yield the right of way to the approaching vehicle. These situations are very fact-dependent, slight variations will change the result. Did you know the car which waved you on can be held liable, as well? They can be if they were negligent in indicating you could go when another car was approaching. Too often, in this situation, the car giving you the "all clear" sign drives off and is never identified. You should, at least, get their car make and tag number, if possible, before traffic clears. You can use this information to track them down to locate their insurance in order to contribute toward recovery for your injuries.

A ship is safe in harbor,
but that's not what ships are for.

- William Shedd



Affordable Health Insurance in Florida?

Yes, it does exist! It's called **Cover Florida Health Insurance** and it is available in every county in Florida starting at about \$25 a month. Who is eligible? Those who have been without insurance for six months or those who have lost a job with health benefits are eligible. Their website, coverfloridahealthcare.com is chock full of information. Pre-existing conditions do not disqualify an applicant. Check it out and spread the word!

New Clients

Welcome

We'd like to welcome everyone who joined our client family.

Out of respect for the privacy of our new clients, we do not list names in our newsletters.

Answers to March Trivia Contest

In last months Trivia Contest we asked what two things Michael Dell, Walter Cronkite, Ted Turner and several others have in common. The answers were:

all are millionaires or multimillionaires
none has a college degree.

We gave away 4 copies of the book, [Attitude is Everything](#)

Congrats to Janice Warren, John Lands, John Thurman and Tiana Nelson!

Thank You

For Your Referrals

Our success is built on referrals and word of mouth advertising. We would like to thank everyone who is kind enough to recommend our firm to their friends!

Published for informational purposes only and no legal advice is intended. Each case is different. You are invited to discuss your legal questions with Mr. Dodson at no initial cost or obligation.

For more articles, reports, videos, news, and commentary on these and other legal matters...

Visit our website at www.JwDodsonLaw.com