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Newsletter: 2nd Quarter 2015



The Schafer Law Office

Schafer Law News

AAA Study: Distractions, Serious Problem Among Teen Drivers

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What happens in the seconds before a crash involving distracted teen drivers? Before, it was hard to figure out what drivers were doing before a crash. This was because we had to rely on their word and eye witnesses. Now, thanks to a study conducted by AAA, we get to see what exactly happened on the road. This study mounted dashboard cameras in cars of teen drivers. These cameras allowed us to see what young drivers were doing in the moments before their crash. It's shocking how many teens are distracted while driving.

The AAA study

We already know that distracted driving is dangerous. However, in this unusual study, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that distractions bear a larger impact in car crashes involving teen drivers than previously reported. The nearly 1,700 videos that AAA analyzed is perfect proof. In these videos, the actions of teen drivers were captured. It was discovered that distractions played a role in nearly six out of 10 moderate to severe crashes.

Common forms of distractions cited in the research were cell phones and engaging with passengers. Both of which take the driver's attention completely off the road. If we refer to the Kentucky Safety Facts, this means it's possible for distracted teen drivers to engage in all three types of distractions (visual, manual and cognitive) at once. They take their eyes off the road, hands off the wheel and take their mind off of what they're doing. This is dangerous.

Distracted driving statistics

Driver distraction is the leading factor in most crashes, stated the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In 2013, more than 52,000 distracted driving crashes left over 9,000 injured and 163 dead in Kentucky. Teen drivers do not only endanger themselves when they engage in distracted driving. Everyone they share the road with is also exposed to potential harm. Parents play an important role in educating young drivers at home about road safety. Young drivers don't need to be involved in an accident before they learn to become more responsible behind the wheel.

Simple habits such as not allowing passengers aboard and keeping cell phones out of sight when driving would help young drivers stay focused. Set a good example. By being the adult driver, young drivers spend a lot of time watching what you do while you drive and how you drive. With this in mind, let's teach them safe driving habits and focus on the road.

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Our Law Clerk Michael with his new born baby, Evan.

New Member of the Family

The Schafer Law Office would like to congratulate Michael and his wife Michelle on their new baby boy, Evan!

Evan was born on June 3, 2015. According to Michael, there was a lot of planning that went on before that date. There were countless trips to Babies R Us that started to get more frequent as Evan's due date was approaching. Michael and Michelle added different items to his nursery and got that finished well before he came. This is their first child. They weren't sure what to expect, other than they knew that it was going to be a big adjustment at home.

Evan was born with no complications at around ten in the morning at Norton Suburban hospital. Evan was a skinny baby at six pounds and eleven ounces, but he was a longer baby at twenty and a half inches long. He has been a lot of fun to have around their house. He is still figuring out how to sleep at night. That has probably been the biggest adjustment for the new parents, but they love having him as part of their family. Now, Michael is hoping Evan will learn to sleep at night sooner rather than later so he can get back to his normal sleeping pattern.

FAQs

Q: Should I Accept A Check From The Insurance Company?

A: It is always dangerous to accept a settlement without knowing all of your rights. In a car accident, once the case is settled, you can never re-open it, even if you find additional injuries at a later date. It's my suggestion that you consult with an attorney before accepting any checks or settlement money.

Tips When Buying Used Cars In Kentucky

You want to look beyond the price of a car when you're thinking about getting a new-to-you car. Here are a few tips when buying a used car:

- **Start by searching for used cars online.** The Internet is a great way to filter your list of car dealerships and sellers by checking out those located near you and that have models you like.
- **Check cost and reviews.** Get a gauge of the average price buyers pay for the car you're interested in. Also, spend time reading reviews about the car's standard features.
- **Review the car's history.** Make sure that you have verified the history of the car you're looking to purchase. Request a history report. There are buyers that found out too late that the car they bought had been wrecked. It pays to check.
- **Test-drive the car.** This is a great way to check the car's condition. It's also a good way to let you know whether it is the right one for you. Make sure to ask the dealer or owner about the car's maintenance.



"Make sure that you have verified the history of the car you're looking to purchase."



Photo by: sanzoe from allrecipe.com

How to make Scrumptious Strawberry Shortcake

(Recipe by: sal from allrecipes.com)

What you'll need:

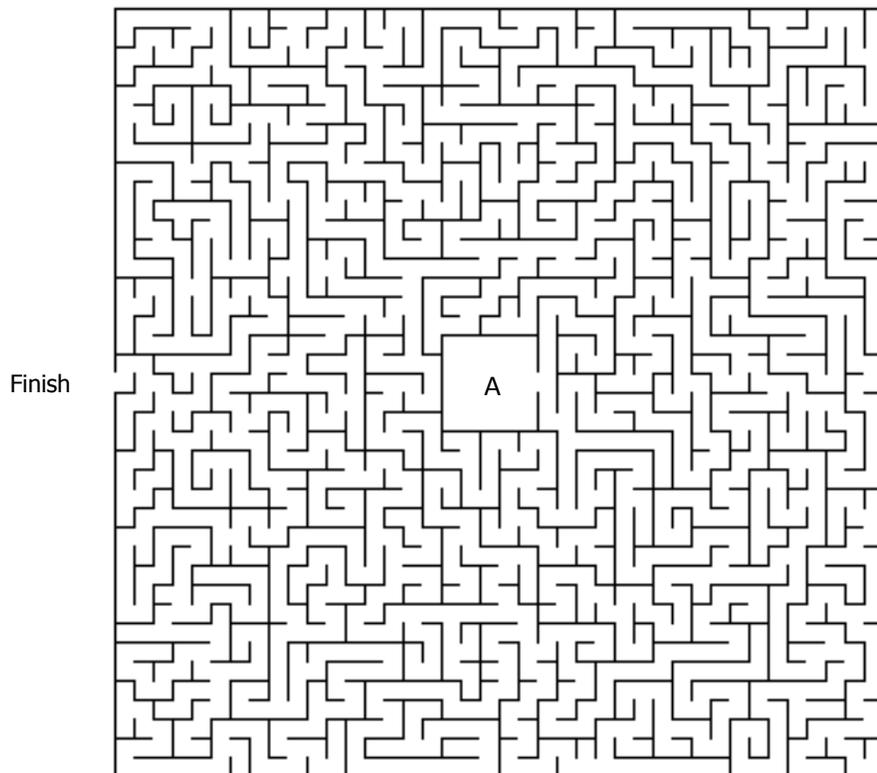
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup white sugar
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 cup butter
- 2/3 cup heavy cream
- 1 egg, beaten
- 3 cups sliced fresh strawberries
- 3 tablespoons white sugar

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. In a large bowl, mix flour, 1/4 cup sugar, baking powder and cream of tartar. Cut in butter with pastry blender or two knives. Stir in cream and egg. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and knead 2 minutes. Press into a half-inch thick sheet. Cut into squares. Place on baking sheets.
3. Bake in preheated oven 20 minutes, or until golden. Sprinkle 3 tablespoons sugar over sliced berries.
4. Let shortcakes cool before splitting and filling with sugared berries.

Game

Can you find your way out of the maze? Start at point A.



Did you know...

"The Dog Days of summer" refers to the weeks between July 3 and August 11. They are named after the Dog Star (Sirius) in the constellation of Canis Major.

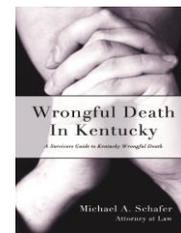
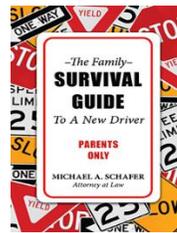
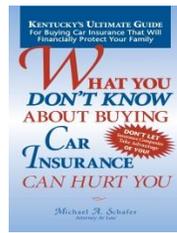
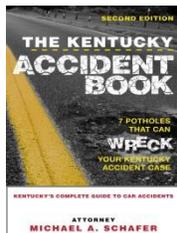




About The Schafer Law Office

The Schafer Law Office has been serving Louisville, Kentucky and the surrounding counties for more than 20 years. The Schafer Law Office concentrates in personal injury cases including: automobile, fatal, truck, motorcycle, bicycle, dog bite, premises liability, pedestrian and child accident cases. If you've been hurt through no fault of your own, contact The Schafer Law Office. Our office number is (502) 584-9511. We will guide you through your case and help you know your legal rights.

Check out our books at:
www.MikeSchaferLaw.com/resources.cfm



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