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## DAVID J. GLATTHORN CIVIL TRIAL LAWYER

AGGRESSIVE, ETHICAL REPRESENTATION FOR OVER 30 YEARS

# When Boarding or Exiting a School Bus Goes Wrong



According to the American School Bus Council, over 26 million kids ride the bus to and from school each day during the academic year. That's a lot of boarding and exiting. In fact, these account for nearly 25 percent of the roughly 17,000 bus-related injuries requiring ER visits each year — and an average of 19 fatalities, compared to the seven caused by vehicular accidents.

A major issue is visibility. Younger children are already smaller and may be tough to see if they walk too close to the front end of the bus, even more so if they drop something and crouch down to pick it up. A momentarily distracted or unwary bus driver may embark too soon and strike a child. Newer bus models with flat front ends provide an improved view, but older models still abound on the roadways.

A child may exit the bus who needs to cross a busy street — with the full protection of the bus's warning lights and "stop" sign. If the child delays and the driver leaves before the child crosses, the child may be endangered. Also, a bus driver who is distracted upon approaching a bus stop might hit a child who was too close to the curb or in the street.

Highly energetic kids confined in a small space can be chaotic; however, bus drivers still owe a duty of care to their passengers. Check out important safety tips at [www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/school-bus-safety](http://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/school-bus-safety).

Because public schools are government entities, the legal doctrine of sovereign immunity comes into play, adding complexity to injury cases. If your child is injured in a school bus-related accident, contact a school bus accident attorney to protect their rights. •



# Drivers Admit to Engaging in Dangerous Habits

Researchers from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety delved into the habits of drivers who had recently been involved in crashes, in contrast with those who hadn't. The study involved a survey of 2,714 drivers who were at least 16 years of age. Participants were asked how they viewed certain risky driving behaviors and if they ever found themselves engaging in them.

Participants who admitted to being involved in a crash within the last two years were far more likely to engage in risky driving behavior than those who weren't involved in an accident. Here are the figures published in the index:



- **Talking on cellphones while driving:** 50% of drivers who were recently involved in crashes and 42% of drivers who weren't involved in crashes admitted to this within the last month.
- **Texting and driving:** 43% of drivers who were recently involved in crashes and 27% of drivers who weren't involved in crashes admitted this within the last month.
- **Running red lights:** 39% of drivers who were recently involved in crashes and 30% of drivers who weren't involved in crashes admitted to this within the last month.

## What should I do if I was in a car accident?

The best thing you can do after a crash is hire an experienced West Palm Beach attorney. Attorney David J. Glatthorn can investigate your crash. He can help you get compensated for your losses. He has built a reputation for successfully advocating for crash victims for over 25 years. To find out how he can help you, contact us online and schedule your free case review. •

## September 2020 Notable Dates

**September 3** — Skyscraper Day      **September 6** — Fight Procrastination Day

**September 14** — Eat a Hoagie Day      **September 19** — Talk Like a Pirate Day

**September 20** — Punch Day      **September 23** — Za'atar Day      **September 29** — Biscotti Day

# Clear Road Construction Signage Is Imperative



There seems to be no escape from road construction — highways, city streets, country roads, you name it. Most times, we welcome the final results with open arms. But until that point ... ugh!

Road construction signage plays a critical role in keeping drivers safe as they navigate new terrain. A lack of construction signage, confusing or inadequate signage, or improperly positioned signage can lead to severe injuries for drivers and/or construction workers.

It starts with a clear warning of upcoming construction. Drivers need to be alerted with ample time to prepare. A sudden backup of traffic around a slight bend in the highway at 65 mph does no one any favors.

Uneven pavement, lane shifts, lane closures, reduced speed limits, and narrowing of lanes, among other conditions, need to be highlighted as well. Construction projects can be unsettling for drivers who are familiar with the area, let alone those who are passing through for the first time. Night driving and inclement weather make proper signage even more critical.

It is incumbent upon roadway construction crews to make sure vital signage isn't covered and that signs are clean. Dirty or damaged signs that are difficult to read can result in driver confusion and accidents. Signs should utilize retroreflective materials for improved nighttime visibility.

A road construction company has a duty to keep a construction zone safe for motorists. That may include going above and beyond government regulations. When a construction company breaches that duty, it's the equivalent of negligence.

If you are injured as a result of improper road construction signage, contact an auto accident attorney to protect your rights. •

## This Library Has Gone *Real* Quiet



The Library of Alexandria, long ago located along the northern Egyptian coast, was the largest library of the ancient world, renowned for its vast collection of works from the great thinkers and writers of antiquity — a crown jewel of knowledge. Allegedly destroyed by a great fire over 2,000 years ago, the Library left no trace of its existence. Nothing archeological, no Library contents.

The Library seemingly had a good run for over two centuries, having been constructed in 297 B.C., but then Julius Caesar came to town. Caesar's army occupied Alexandria in 48 B.C., but the Egyptians rebelled, with a fleet in the harbor at the ready. Caesar ordered his men to set fire to the ships, but the ensuing conflagration reputedly engulfed parts of the city near the shore, including the Library.

However, some historians believe Caesar got a bum rap. According to them, a warehouse full of manuscripts awaiting export may have burned, but the Library itself went relatively unscathed. Other ancient writers indicate the Library, or at least part of it, was still in existence in 20 B.C.

In 271 A.D., Roman Emperor Aurelian reclaimed Alexandria for Rome with devastating effect. One historical account states that the district originally home to the Library was "made into a desert." If the Library had survived to that point, it was now likely toast.

Many scholars believe the Library of Alexandria's demise was probably gradual, not necessarily spurred by a singular event. Government interests and priorities shifted over the years, leading to neglect of the Library's contents, and the city was a volatile place, having been sacked by foreign armies on various occasions. However, historians and archeologists are hopeful that physical evidence of the Library still exists; its discovery is just long overdue. •

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## Surveying the Landscape ... and Avoiding Liability Issues

Late summer through early autumn is a prime time for landscaping projects. This time of year offers advantages over spring, such as lower temperatures, less humidity, and improved weather stability. New plants, shrubs, grasses, and trees can thrive in this environment and have time to develop healthier root systems before being subjected to the following year's stressful summertime conditions.

In 2017, over 40 percent of homeowners hired someone to do landscaping or lawn-care work on their property. In some circumstances, however, homeowners may be exposed to potential liability if a worker is injured on the job.

Most states require independent contractors to have insurance. The vast majority of companies must provide workers' compensation coverage for their employees — but there are exceptions. Never assume anything. Always ask to see all certificates of insurance and business licenses to make sure they're current.

It is important to have proper homeowners insurance protection as well. Familiarize yourself with your coverage and confer with your insurance agent to make sure you have the right amount. It will reduce the likelihood that you will be on the hook for any worker injuries on your property.

If you are tempted to take up a neighbor's recommendation of a skilled do-it-yourselfer who will do the work at a bargain-basement rate — and who has no license or insurance — you're playing with fire. Many homeowners insurance policies will not cover homeowners who are subject to injury claims if they hired unlicensed, uninsured contractors.

May your landscaping be the envy of the neighborhood, but protect your best interests in the process. ●

