

THE
GOLDLAW
REPORT

SUMMER
2024
EDITION



SUMMER IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

YOUR GUIDE TO AVOIDING ACCIDENTS,
INJURIES, AND LEGAL PITFALLS



WE HOLD ACCOUNTABLE THOSE WHO HURT OTHERS.®

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

When the unforeseen becomes a reality, our mission is to provide hope, compassion, and guidance as your partners in recovery.

OUR CORE VALUES



The Gold Standard

We strive for excellence in everything we do. We have resources to fight the insurance companies. We run a well-organized and stable practice that has given back to the community for more than 20 years.



Respect

We value our clients' time, respond to their needs, and diligently pursue their case. We support our coworkers, enjoy working together, and celebrate the successes of our teams.



Integrity

We conduct ourselves with professionalism in the office and in the community. We have strong moral principles. We are trustworthy and ethical.



Innovation

We've reinvented the practice of personal injury law. We empower our team to develop new ways to serve our clients. We pursue cutting-edge technologies to get the best results.



Compassion

We are sensitive to the trauma our clients have suffered, which drives our commitment to help them recover. We provide support during a difficult time. We practice compassion with our clients, our team, and our community.



Success

We have a strong record of winning. Our clients benefit due to our dynamic working environment and dedicated, long-term employees. Our leaders support and develop our teams.

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 **GOLDLAW**
PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS

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How do you deal with loss?

I wake up every morning these days, and I do the same thing- I scan my body for what hurts, as I get out of bed.

I am now in my 50s. Years of frequent exercise, competitive sports, and sitting at a desk have taken their toll on my body. My posture has gotten worse. I have had several orthopedic surgeries, including a knee replacement and an Achilles tendon repair. I must work on my flexibility every day, in order to avoid getting worse. I feel a sense of loss, because my body is aging and I no longer have the sense of vitality and invincibility I once had.



At almost any age, we all have experienced loss. It may be the loss of a physical ability, the loss of a loved one, or even the loss of an opportunity. However, in order to avoid being destroyed by our losses, we must figure out a way to process them.

As a Personal Injury attorney, my clients have all suffered a loss. Some of them have lost their ability to work; some of them have lost their ability to spend a day without pain; some of them have lost a loved one to a tragic accident.

I have found a few techniques that help me to process loss that you may find helpful. I would like to share these techniques with you:

1. Accept the loss

Sometimes, we are in denial that the loss has even occurred. In my case, I had to accept that there are some activities I simply can no longer do. Denying the loss often leads to frustration and anger. Realize that it is OK to grieve.

2. See the loss as an opportunity

Losing something is often an opportunity to grow. It may force you to develop a part of yourself that you did not know existed, or to form a relationship that you had previously not had. For example, if you are no longer able to be as physical as you once were, you could nurture an interest in a cerebral activity that you may never have developed.

3. Make a plan to replace the loss

The only path through loss is the path of action. Create a plan, and take the first, small step toward the goal. If your goal is to read more, take the easy first step and simply go to the book store or browse on line.

Once you take the first step, the second step becomes viable and reachable.

4. Redefine yourself

Finally, you can incorporate the loss into who you are as a person. Once you accept that this change is part of your life, you can complete the grieving process and move on. Once you complete your grief, you will return to normalcy, and you will redefine who you are, despite what you have lost.

No loss is easy. Whether your loss is physical, emotional, or both, you will survive (and even thrive) if you can take actions that allow you to grow. As an attorney, I have often found myself in the role of "counselor" in order to help my clients process a loss. I hope that some of the above techniques may help you, as you heal from whatever loss you may have suffered.

Now, as I get up from my chair, I will again do a body scan to see what body part may be hurting today....

Craig M. Goldenfarb, Esq.

Founder / CEO

CASE REVIEW

Turning Tragedy into a \$6.5M Triumph!

A Family's Resilience in the Face of Unthinkable Loss

THE TRAGIC LOSS of a loved one due to someone else's negligence is an immeasurable burden. In such trying times, the decision to seek legal recourse can be daunting. The case offers an illustration of the profound impact a personal injury firm like GOLDLAW can have on a grieving family's pursuit of justice.

The Case

The life of a tow truck driver, once a cherished dream for "M.B.," who followed in his father's footsteps, turned into an unimaginable nightmare for his family. M.B.'s dedication to helping others on a Florida highway tragically ended when he was struck and killed by a negligent tractor-trailer driver. The driver's disregard for Florida's "Move Over" law shattered M.B.'s family, leaving his wife and three young sons to grapple with an immeasurable loss.

GOLDLAW's Role

Led by firm CEO Craig Goldenfarb, Jorge Maxion, and Critical Case Manager Sue Newall, GOLDLAW used an "all hands-on deck" approach to reach a settlement with ALL parties involved (there were multiple), in just 90 days. Although the defendants claimed that M.B. was in the wrong, the GOLDLAW team had the foresight to hire an expert to reconstruct the accident that proved that the truck driver, not M.B., was at fault.

The Settlement

After a laborious negotiation, a \$6,500,000 settlement with the defendants' insurers was reached. This included substantial payments to all three of M.B.'s young boys, and his wife, including guaranteed funds for all the boys' future educations.



The substantial settlement secured in this case underscores the meticulous care and unwavering dedication personal injury firms invest in selecting and representing clients who have suffered unimaginable losses. The swift resolution of this case within 90 days emphasizes the tireless efforts and resources firms like GOLDLAW dedicate to achieving the best possible outcome for their clients. The ripple effects of such a successful outcome extend far beyond the immediate case, shaping the firm's reputation and attracting future clients seeking compassionate and effective representation in their own pursuit of justice.

GOLDLAW GIVES

GOLDLAW is passionate about serving our community and giving back to the people who support us. Here's a quick recap of how the firm made a positive impact locally so far in 2024!

HEART OF THE GAME CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT – May 2, 2024

The 7th annual tourney at the Palmer Course at The PGA National resort raised more than \$40,000, which will allow Heart of the Game (HOTG) to donate a significant number of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and provide cardiac emergency response training to youth sports organizations throughout Florida.



MOTHERS AGAINST MURDERERS (MAMA) GALA and DINNER – May 11, 2024

A longtime supporter of this local charity that raises awareness about gun violence, GOLDLAW CEO and Founder Craig Goldenfarb was proud to present MAMA founder Angela Williams with a special \$1,000 donation to this great cause.



Photo Credits: The Palm Beach Post

GREENACRES ROCK 'n ROLL SUNDAY & CHILI COOK-OFF – May 19, 2024

The GOLDLAW team was on hand to meet the community at a great local event that helps to support Vetsville Cease Firehouse, a local organization that helps homeless and hungry veterans!

INTERNATIONAL RED SNEAKERS DAY – May 19, 2024

Once again, GOLDLAW had a powerful presence at International Red Sneakers Day, the biggest outreach day each year for the non-profit Red Sneakers for Oakley, a charity dedicated to education and advocacy for food allergy awareness.



EMANUEL McMILLER SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AWARDS CEREMONY – May 31, 2024

Craig presented \$10,000 to three alumni of The Gerald A. Williams Center for Prelaw, as they pursue their legal educations and careers in law! Congrats to Ijahala Pottinger, Andre'anna Hodges, and Miriam Vidaurre-Zarate on their great accomplishments!



Photo Credits: www.miamilivingmagazine.com

GOLDLAW CELEBRATES PRIDE DELRAY BEACH June 7, 2024

A longtime ally of the LGBTQ+ community, GOLDLAW was well represented at Delray's PRIDE Beach Festival and Concert. Staff handed out firm swag and engaged with the crowd in a celebration of diversity.



REVIEWS FROM HAPPY CLIENTS

5-STAR REVIEWS

PAMELA P.
May 2024

★★★★★

"The staff and the service is amazing! Tracie answered all our questions. Lawyer Tim Kenison walked us through every step. We were treated with dignity and respect... and we weren't just a number in the que. I would give GOLDLAW six stars if I could!"

LAURA D.
May 2024

★★★★★

"Usually I don't leave reviews, but I need to take time to express how thankful I am with GOLDLAW, especially Diana Ramirez. The nightmare I had with a situation that involved my daughter was stressful, but Diana helped so much in the process. She also speaks Spanish, and was able to talk with some of my family members that do not speak English. The entire staff was amazing! I 100% recommend GOLDLAW. Thanks again!"

REUBEN R.
May 2024

★★★★★

"Imagine getting ready to start a new job while being in a Ph.D. program, and being involved in a car accident at no fault of your own. In addition to a totaled vehicle, I ended up having spinal fractures, pinched nerves, and temporary loss of movement in one arm. However, attorney Jorge Maxion and paralegal Medeline Guerrero from GOLDLAW really took care of everything. I would NEVER hesitate to refer them, because GOLDLAW can help you handle any situation. Great people, using talent, education, and compassion to serve in the time of dire need."

CHAMPAGNE M.
June 2024

★★★★★

"I am so happy with our decision to go with GOLDLAW! Intake Specialist Steven Escobedo started by guiding us through the process, exceeding our expectations. He is definitely an asset to the firm, being kind, patient, supportive, and friendly. He really cares, and that says so much about the entire staff. Dan (Conner) came to the hospital room and was SO nice and helpful for my senior father. GOLDLAW cares. That speaks mega volumes. Thank you so much!"

REVIEW US ON GOOGLE

How to submit?

Share your experience publicly with the GOLDLAW team! You can let others know that you had a great experience with our law firm by leaving us an online review. Here's how to do it:

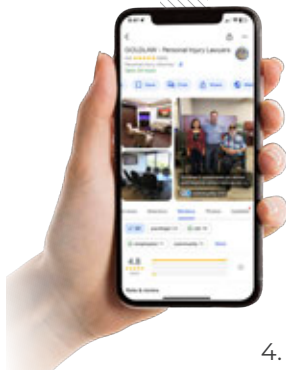
You need to have a Google or Gmail account to post the review. To open an account, visit www.gmail.com, and just follow the instructions! Once you have created your account, it's easy!

From Your Browser

1. Log into your Google or Gmail account, and search Google.com for the business you want to review (in this case, GOLDLAW).
2. Find the reviews area, (next to the star rating in the search results, or under the business name in the sidebar in Google search). Click on the blue font that says "WRITE A REVIEW."
3. Rate from 1 to 5 stars (the more stars indicates a more positive experience), then write about your experience. Click "POST" when you are done.

From the Google Maps App

1. In the Google maps app on your phone, search for GOLDLAW.
2. Google Maps will return search result with a map that includes a banner at the bottom about GOLDLAW. Click that banner.
3. Scroll down in the window that pops up until you get to the Reviews section. You will see "five stars" unpopulated with our profile picture above them. Click on the number of stars you want to leave for GOLDLAW, then write about your experience.
4. Click "POST" to leave the review.



Swim Safe, Swim Happy

DIVE INTO THE FACTS

DROWNING IS SILENT

Despite what is often depicted on TV or in movies, there can be very little splashing, waving or screaming.



DROWNING IS THE LEADING CAUSE

of accidental death for children under **5**, the second leading cause of accidental death for children under 15, and the **5TH LEADING CAUSE** for people of all ages.¹

Drowning kills more children ages 1-4 Than anything else except birth defects.¹

DROWNING IS QUICK

All it takes is **2" of water for 2 minutes**. By the time a child begins to struggle, you have a short window to react.



10
PEOPLE



DROWN EACH DAY IN THE U.S.¹

AS MANY AS

69% OF YOUNG CHILDREN

who are found drowned or submerged in swimming pools were not expected to be in or at the pool.



LIFE-SAVING TIPS



WEAR LIFE JACKETS IN AND AROUND NATURAL BODIES OF WATER

SECURE THE PERIMETER OF YOUR POOL



TALK TO YOUR KIDS ABOUT WATER SAFETY

SWIM WITH A BUDDY/ NEVER SWIM ALONE



REMOVE TOYS OR OTHER TEMPTATIONS FROM THE POOL AREA

Heat-Related Illness

FLORIDA'S SUN-SOAKED days and tropical climate are part of its allure, but these conditions also contribute to a growing concern: heat-related illnesses and injuries. While anyone can be affected, certain groups like children, the elderly, and outdoor workers are more vulnerable, due to their activities and physiological differences. As temperatures rise, understanding prevention, recognition, and early treatment is crucial to avoid potential tragedies.



Why Florida Heat is Especially Risky

- High temperatures and humidity hinder the body's cooling mechanisms.
- Year-round warmth limits natural acclimatization.
- Sunshine intensifies heat exposure.



Who's Most Vulnerable to Heat-Related Illness?

- Children: Smaller bodies overheat faster.
- Elderly: Decreased ability to regulate body temp; underlying health conditions may exacerbate heat stress.
- Athletes: Intense exertion raises core temperature.

Warning Signs of Heat Illness

- Flushed red skin
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Muscle cramps
- Pouring sweat
- Unconsciousness

Actions to take with Severe Cases

- Ice packs, ice bath, fan cooling
- Hydration via IV
- Immediate medical attention

Prevention Strategies

- Staying hydrated
- Resting in shaded areas
- Cooling off in water (pool, ocean, etc.) or with ice
- Acclimatization



Boating in Paradise

Balancing Fun with Safety on Florida's Waterways

FLORIDA, with over 8,000 miles of coastline, numerous lakes, the Everglades, and an extensive network of rivers and canals, is a boating paradise. The state's tropical climate and scenic waterways attract boating enthusiasts from all over the world. However, the beauty of Florida's waterways comes with significant responsibilities and risks.

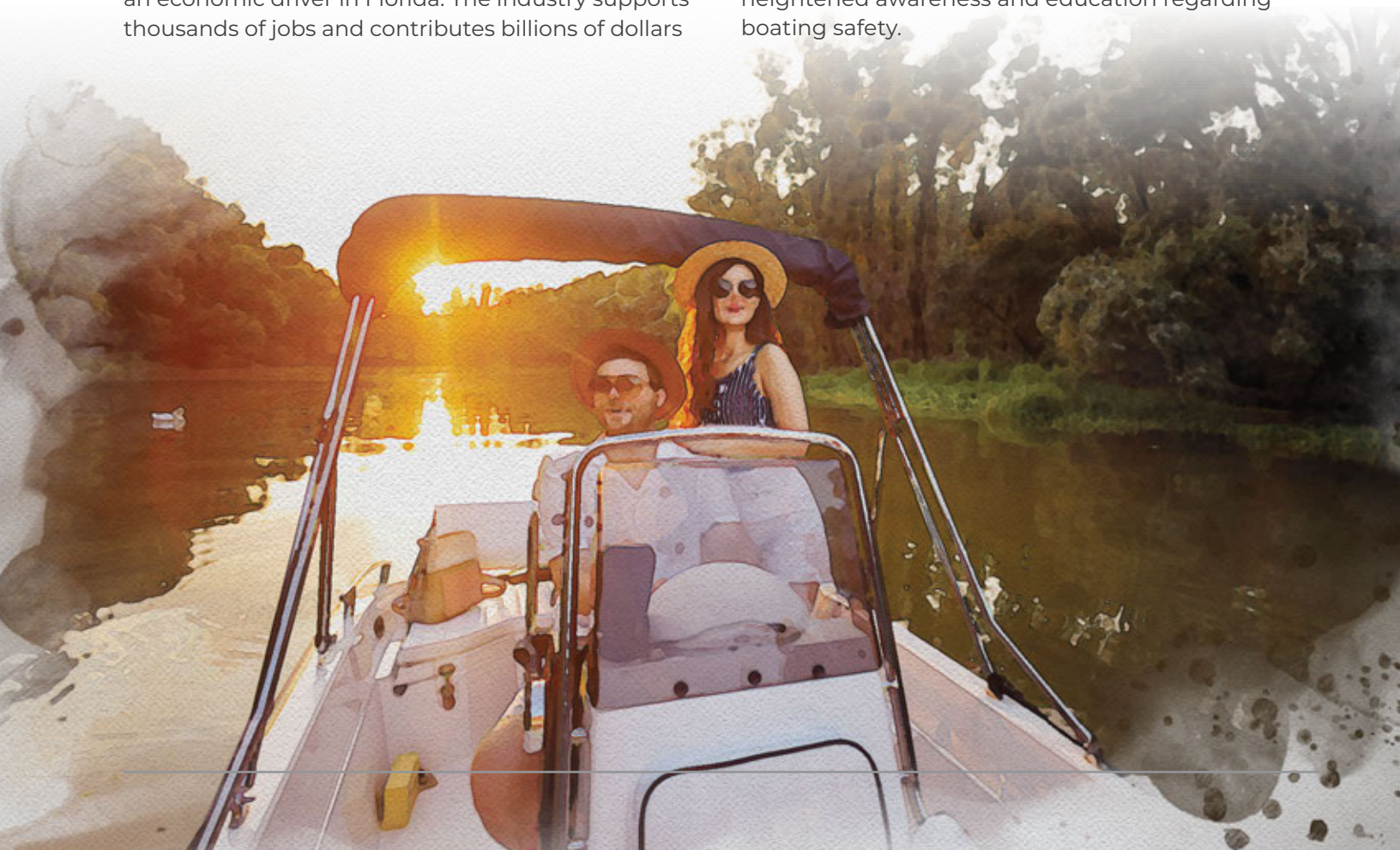
The Sunshine State is regarded as the "Boating Capital of the World," boasting 1,000,000+ registered vessels, more than any other state, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Committee (FWC). Additionally, the state attracts countless unregistered and visiting boats each year, contributing to the bustling recreational scene.

Boating is not only a popular leisure activity, but also an economic driver in Florida. The industry supports thousands of jobs and contributes billions of dollars

to the state's economy. Popular boating activities include fishing, sailing, water skiing, diving, and cruising. However, with such high activity levels, the risk of accidents increases, highlighting the importance of boating safety.

Boating Accident Statistics

Florida ranks as the top state in the nation for boating accidents, injuries, and fatalities. According to the FWC's 2022 Boating Accident Statistical Report, there were 836 reported boating accidents in 2022, resulting in 65 fatalities and 457 injuries. The FWC Report also reveals that personal watercraft (PWC), such as jet skis, are particularly prone to accidents. In 2022, PWC's accounted for 24% of all reported boating accidents and 14% of boating fatalities. These figures underscore the need for heightened awareness and education regarding boating safety.



Primary Contributing Factors to Boating Accidents

Several factors contribute to boating accidents, injuries, and fatalities in Florida. The primary causes identified by the FWC and Coast Guard include:


- 1. Operator/Driver Inattention:** Many accidents occur because the boat operator is not paying adequate attention to their surroundings, other vessels, or navigational hazards. Distractions can lead to collisions and other dangerous situations.
- 2. Operator Inexperience:** Lack of experience and proper training can significantly increase the likelihood of accidents. Inexperienced operators may not fully understand how to handle their vessel in specific conditions or emergencies.
- 3. Improper Lookout:** Failing to maintain a proper lookout is a common cause of accidents. Boaters must continuously scan their surroundings to detect potential hazards early.
- 4. Excessive Speed:** Speeding is a major contributing factor to many boating accidents. High speeds reduce the operator's reaction time and increase the severity of collisions.
- 5. Alcohol Use:** Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol is illegal and extremely dangerous. Alcohol impairs judgment, coordination, and reaction times, significantly increasing the risk of accidents.
- 5. Maintain a Proper Lookout:** Always be vigilant and maintain a proper lookout for other vessels, swimmers, and hazards. Assign a passenger to help keep watch if needed.

Steps Boaters Can Take to Avoid Accidents

Boating safety begins with **education** and **preparation**. Here are essential steps boaters can take to minimize the risk of accidents, injuries, and fatalities:

- 1. Take a Boating Safety Course:** Education is the foundation of safe boating. Safety courses teach essential skills and knowledge about navigation, emergency procedures, and the legal responsibilities of boat operators.
- 2. Wear Life Jackets:** Life jackets are a critical safety measure. Ensure that there are enough on board for all passengers and that they are worn at all times, especially by children and non-swimmers.
- 3. Stay Sober:** NEVER operate a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- 4. Observe Speed Limits & Navigational Rules:** Adhere to posted speed limits and understand the rules of navigation to avoid collisions and other accidents.

Boating in Florida offers unparalleled enjoyment, but it also comes with significant responsibilities. Understanding the primary cause of boating accidents and taking proactive steps to enhance safety can ensure that your time on the water remains both enjoyable and safe. By educating oneself, staying vigilant, and being prepared, boaters can navigate Florida's beautiful but sometimes challenging waterways responsibly. So, before you set sail, remember to prioritize safety – because a safe journey is the best kind of adventure. And as FWC Captain Tom Shipp says...

“Boating is one of the most rewarding ways to connect with nature and enjoy Florida’s stunning waterways. Safety ensures that these experiences remain positive and memorable.” 





Reclaim Control of Your Practice!

Creator of the 7 Figure Attorney Summit, GOLDLAW's Founder/CEO Craig Goldenfarb is a highly sought after national speaker who attorneys from across the country seek out for advice on how to grow their practices, and create a company culture that keeps employees motivated, happy, and productive.

On **Friday, September 27**, Craig will be hosting an exclusive ½ day seminar in West Palm Beach, FL. For lawyers/CEOs who are interested in:

- ✓ Conquering Chaos
- ✓ Beating Burnout
- ✓ Boosting Profits!

Register for this intensive workshop which will take place at the **Embassy Suites – WPB Airport** from **8:30am – 12:30pm**. To register, scan this code or visit: www.goldlaw.com/seminar.



It will be the best \$99 you spend all year!

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

Super Lawyers



The Best Lawyers in America®



A Thank You from GOLDLAW!

In 2024, GOLDLAW is celebrating your trust, support, and resilience! To give back to the incredible community that has helped us flourish, we are offering a chance to win a **\$250 VISA Gift Card!**



Whether you are a loyal client, a potential future client, or simply someone who believes in fighting for justice, this giveaway is for YOU! We wouldn't be here without your support, and we want to say thank you for choosing GOLDLAW, believing in us, and sharing your stories.

HERE'S HOW TO ENTER:

- 1** Grab your smartphone! Scan the QR Code below using your camera app.
- 2** Fill out the quick entry form! It's just a few questions to learn more about you.
- 3** That's it! You're automatically entered!
- 4** We will select and notify the winner on September 23, 2024.

At GOLDLAW, we are committed to serving our community with dedication and compassion, and your support fuels our passion. Thanks for being part of our journey!

Scan the QR Code below and enter now! Good luck!



Foodborne Illness

SUMMERTIME is synonymous with outdoor gatherings, picnics, and barbeques. However, the warm weather also brings an increased risk of foodborne illness, a serious public health concern. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an estimated 48 million people get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die from foodborne diseases each year in the United States, with a significant number of cases occurring during the summer months.

What is Foodborne Illness and How Does it Happen?

Foodborne illness, also known as food poisoning, is caused by consuming contaminated food or beverages. Contamination can occur at any point along the food production and preparation process, from the farm to the table. Bacteria, viruses, parasites and toxins are the most common culprits. "The most effective way to prevent foodborne illness is to practice good hygiene in the kitchen and when handling food," said Dr. Robert Tauxe, CDC Director of the Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases.

In the summer, warm temperatures create ideal conditions for the rapid growth of harmful bacteria. Food left out in the heat for too long can quickly become a breeding ground for these pathogens. Improper food handling practices, such as cross-contamination between raw and cooked foods, inadequate cooking temperatures, and poor personal hygiene, also contribute to the spread of foodborne illness.

Steps to take to Prevent Foodborne Illness


Fortunately, there are several steps you can take to minimize your risk of foodborne illness this summer:

- 1. Wash your hands thoroughly:** Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before and after handling food.
- 2. Keep raw and cooked foods separate:** Use separate cutting boards, plates, and utensils for raw and cooked foods to avoid cross-contamination.



- 3. Cook food thoroughly:** Use a food thermometer to ensure that meat, poultry, and seafood are all cooked to safe internal temperatures.
- 4. Refrigerate perishable foods promptly:** Refrigerate perishable foods within two hours of purchasing/preparing them.
- 5. Be mindful of seafood safety:** If consuming raw seafood, choose from reputable sources and follow safe handling practices.

"Florida's warm climate and diverse agricultural industry pose unique challenges to food safety," said University of Florida Food Safety Expert Dr. Behzad Imanian. "It's important for consumers to be aware of the risks and take steps to protect themselves."

As the sun shines brightly and temperatures soar this summer, let's not forget the importance of food safety. By taking simple precautions, we can savor the flavors of the season while safeguarding our health and well-being. Remember, a few mindful steps can make all the difference in preventing foodborne illness. So, let's raise a toast to a summer filled with joyous gatherings and the peace of mind that comes from knowing our food is safe to enjoy. 

A Silent Killer

Understanding Child Drownings in Florida

FLORIDA is renowned for its beautiful weather and extensive coastline, making water activities a significant part of the state's culture. However, this brings a hidden danger – drowning – especially among children. Understanding the scope of this issue, and raising awareness are essential steps towards prevention.

Drowning Statistics in Florida

Drowning rates in Florida are alarmingly high, and the state has led the nation in child drowning deaths for years. According to the Florida Department of Children and Families, at least 97 kids drowned to death in 2023, continuing a disturbing trend:

- 2022 – 93 drowning deaths
- 2021 – 99 drowning deaths
- 2020 – 69 drowning deaths
- 2019 – 65 drowning deaths
- 2018 – 88 drowning deaths
- 2017 – 82 drowning deaths

Per data from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), since 2018, Florida has been ranked the highest in the United States for unintentional drowning death rate among children ages 1 to 4 years old and had the highest unintentional death rate among children 0 - 9 years of age compared to other states. Unfortunately, these tragedies often occur silently and swiftly, often in the presence of adults who are unaware until it's too late. Furthermore, the CDC reports that three children die every day as a result of drowning. Incredibly, the majority of these incidents happen in home swimming pools.

Factors Contributing to Child Drownings

Per the CDC, a number of factors contribute to the high rates of child drownings in Florida:

- 1. Lack of Supervision:** Drowning can happen quickly and quietly **ANYWHERE** there is water, especially to unsupervised children. It happens in pools, lakes, ponds, the ocean and even bathtubs. Young children **CANNOT** be left alone around water.
- 2. Location & Accessibility:** The highest risk locations for drowning vary by child age:
 1. Among infants under 1 year-old, two-thirds of all drownings occur in bathtubs.
 2. In children ages 1 – 4, most drownings happen in home swimming pools.
 3. For children 5 – 14, 40% of drownings occur in “natural” water (the ocean, lakes, rivers), and about 30% occur in pools.
- 3. Not Being Able to Swim/Lack of Water Safety Awareness:** Enrolling children in swimming lessons at an early age reduces the risk of drowning and also teaches good water safety habits!
- 4. Missing/Ineffective Fences Around Water:** Proper pool fencing can prevent young children from gaining access to pools without a caregivers' awareness. A 4-sided isolation fence which separates the pool area from the house and yard reduces a child's risk of drowning by 83% compared to a 3-sided property-line fencing!



Demographics and Drowning

Drowning incidents disproportionately affect certain demographics:

- African American children ages 5 - 19 drown at rates 5.5 times higher than White children.
- Black children are more likely to drown in public pools, while white children are more likely to drown in residential pools.
- American Indian/Alaskan Native children also have higher drowning rates than White children.
- 79% of children in households with incomes less than \$50,000 have few or no swimming skills.

(Stats per the CDC and Stop Drowning Now)

Drowning Data/Stats

- Drowning is the #1 cause of death of children ages **1-4**.
- Drowning is the **2nd** leading cause of unintentional injury death for children ages **5-14**.
- Every year in the U.S. there are over **4,000** unintentional drowning deaths.
- Drowning is fast and silent. It can happen in as little as **20-60** seconds.
- **23%** of child drownings happen during a family gathering near a pool.
- **87%** of drowning fatalities happen in home pools or hot tubs for children younger than 5.
- Most take place in pools owned by family or friends.
- Children **5-17** are more likely to drown in "natural" water such as ponds, lakes, or the ocean.
- For kids under **14**, **88%** of drowning deaths occur with at least one adult nearby.
- Nearly 1-in-5 drowning deaths occur at pools with certified lifeguards present.
- Emergency departments treat about **6,400** pool and spa injuries in children under **15** every year.
- Boys younger than **15** die from drowning at twice the rate of girls.
- Drowning is the leading cause of injury death in autistic children.
- Formal swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning by **88%**.

Stats furnished by the National Safety Council, Safe Kids Worldwide, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Consumer Products Safety Commission, the American Red Cross, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.



Preventing Child Drownings

Raising awareness about the dangers of drowning and promoting comprehensive water safety practices are crucial, especially in Florida. In 2024, some new laws will be enacted to help combat the drowning problem:

- **SB 544: Swimming Lesson Voucher Program:** This law would give FREE swim lesson vouchers to kids 4 and under in families below 200% of the federal poverty level, - about \$60,000 for a family of four.
- **SB 274: The Kareem Angel Green Act:** Would require organizations like summer camps or schools that take kids to bodies of water to get parents to attest, in writing, whether their children can swim. Kids at risk of drowning would be required to wear flotation devices.
- It's named after a 5-year-old Osceola County resident who drowned on a school field trip to a swimming pool in 2006.
- **HB 719/SB 706: Residential Swimming Pool Requirements:** Would require homeowners to install at least one safety barrier to their pool before they can sell their home, regardless of what year the pool was built.

Becoming the Gold Standard for Water Safety

Through legislation like the Florida Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act, and requiring features such as secure barriers, pool alarms, and safer drain covers, Florida is making significant strides in creating environments where children can splash and swim with less risk. Additionally, local efforts across the state to promote water safety education highlight Florida's commitment to not just respond to drowning incidents, but to prevent them proactively. It's a commitment that involves lawmakers, community leaders, and every family that loves the water. Together, we can ensure that our pools and beaches remain places of joy, not of loss, making Florida a national leader in the prevention of child drownings. 🌊



Waterparks

A Refreshing Escape to a Hidden Danger?

WATERPARKS have become a popular part of summer fun for families and thrill-seekers alike. These aquatic amusement parks have a long history dating back to the early 20th century. Despite their popularity, waterparks have also become a focal point for safety concerns as the number of injuries continues to rise. Understanding the history of waterparks, the types of rides offered, and the common injuries can help highlight both the strides made in safety and the challenges that remain.

The History and Popularity of Waterparks

The concept of “wave pools” originated in Europe in the early 20th century. The first to gain notoriety in the U.S. was “Big Surf.” Opened in 1969 in Tempe, Arizona. The 20-acre complex was the first of its kind to consistently generate 3-5 foot waves that could be ridden on a surfboard. However, it wasn’t until the 1970s and 1980s that waterparks became popular. They quickly gained popularity, providing a unique way to “beat the heat” while enjoying a variety of thrilling water activities.

Types of Rides and Attractions

Today, waterparks can be found in nearly every major city, attracting millions of visitors each year. The allure of waterparks lies in their diverse attractions, ranging from lazy rivers and splash pads for kids, to

highspeed water slides for adrenaline junkies. Some of the most popular rides and activities include:

1. **Water Slides:** These range from gentle, winding slides to steep, high-speed tracks for thrill-seekers. Slides like the “Black Hole” or “Freefall” can reach speeds that rival roller coasters.
2. **Wave Pools:** Mimicking the action of ocean waves, these pools create artificial waves that visitors can swim in or die with inflatable tubes.
3. **Lazy Rivers:** These are slow-moving, shallow pools that carry visitors on relaxing journeys around the park on inflatable tubes.
4. **Raft Rides:** These rides involve larger tubes/rafts that can hold multiple people, often navigating through twists, turns, and drops.

How Rides Can Cause Injuries

The features that make waterparks so appealing also contribute to the potential for injuries. The primary causes of injuries at waterparks include:

1. **High Speeds & Sudden Drops:** Water slides and raft rides that involve high speeds and sudden drops can result in collisions, whiplash, and other impact injuries.
2. **Slippery Surfaces:** Wet surfaces around pools and rides can lead to slips and falls, causing sprains, fractures, and head injuries.
3. **Drowning/Near-Drowning:** Wave pools

and deep-water attractions can be dangerous, particularly for weak swimmers of young children who may struggle with the water's force.

4. **Mechanical Failures:** Malfunctions in equipment, such as broken rafts or faulty wave machines, can lead to unexpected accidents and injuries.

Types of Injuries Caused

The injuries sustained at waterparks vary widely, from minor to severe. According to a 2019 report by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, there were an estimated 4,200 injuries treated in emergency rooms associated with waterpark attractions. Common injuries include:

1. **Cuts and Bruises:** Often caused by contact with rough surfaces or collisions with other riders.
2. **Fractures and Sprains:** Resulting from slips, falls, and awkward landings after drops or high-speed sections of rides.
3. **Head Injuries:** Including concussions and skull fractures, typically caused by collisions or falls.
4. **Drowning/Near-Drowning Incidents:** Serious injury or death can result if not promptly addressed by lifeguards and other safety personnel.

Safety Measures taken by Park Operators

In response to the rising rate of injuries, park operators have taken various measures to enhance safety, including:

1. Implementing stricter height/weight restrictions.
2. Increasing the number of lifeguards and safety personnel on duty.
3. Conducting regular safety inspections of facilities.
4. Investing in new technologies, such as automated braking systems for water slides, to reduce the risk of collisions.
5. Providing Safety Gear: Providing and enforcing the use of safety gear such as life jackets for weaker swimmers.

Still, Challenges Remain

Despite these efforts, there are still challenges to overcome. Some major issues include:

1. **Lack of Standardized Safety Regulations:** Unlike amusement parks, which are subject to federal oversight, waterparks are primarily regulated at the state and local levels, resulting

in inconsistent rules and enforcement. This makes it difficult to ensure that all waterparks adhere to the same safety standards, potentially putting visitors at risk.


2. **Nature of Waterpark Attractions:** Many rides involve high speeds, sudden drops, and unpredictable movements. These can be difficult to control, even with the most advanced safety measures.
3. **Compliance and Enforcement:** Ensuring that all guests follow safety rules can be difficult, particularly during peak times when parks are crowded.
4. **Aging Infrastructure:** Older parks with outdated equipment pose higher risks, and upgrading these facilities can be costly and time-consuming.

Addressing the Issues

"The waterpark industry is committed to safety, but there's always room for improvement," according to Ben Brewer, Senior Vice President of the Work Waterpark Association. "We need to work collaboratively with regulators, safety experts, and the public to create a culture of safety that protects all visitors." Here are a few ideas getting a lot of attention:

1. Standardized regulations for waterparks at the national level. This would ensure all parks meet minimum safety requirements and that visitors can expect a consistent level of protection.
2. Investment in safety technologies and training for staff. The implementation of automated safety systems, and educating employees on proper emergency procedures is a win-win, for both the parks and their customers.
3. Making visitors aware of the potential risks associated with park activities. By knowing the risks, it may quell risky behavior and avoid customers not paying attention to park rules and regulations.

While waterparks offer a fun and exciting way to cool off during the summer months, it is important for park visitors to be aware of potential dangers. Dr. Gary Smith, President of the Child Injury Prevention Alliance sums it up best:

"We need to recognize that waterparks are not risk-free environments, especially for young children. Parents must be vigilant and follow safety guidelines, but waterpark operators also have a responsibility to create a safe environment for everyone." 

Welcome to Muck City!

Where Athletic Stars Shine!

SINCE HE LAUNCHED GOLDLAW more than 22 years ago, Craig Goldenfarb has made it a priority to support numerous causes and events in Palm Beach County. Headquartered in West Palm Beach, the firm has spent considerable time traversing the county, from its southern border in Boca Raton, north to Jupiter, east into Boynton Beach, and west (kind of) to areas like Royal Palm Beach and Loxahatchee. But after a recent review of where GOLDLAW was making an impact, it became clear that a vital area of the county was being neglected.

"During a brain-storming session, a number of employees with ties to the area asked why we were not putting any marketing focus on the Glades," said Goldenfarb. "This motivated our marketing team to do some research, and its findings made us realize that the area known as Muck City, at the far western reaches of the county was being underserved, not just by GOLDLAW, but in general. So, we decided it was time to create a strategy to include cities like Belle Glade, Pahokee, South Bay, and Clewiston, in our community outreach."

Welcome to Muck City!

After just a couple of meetings with community leaders, GOLDLAW is already establishing relationships in the area, and is developing a plan to support numerous events and organizations in the future.

HERE'S A LOOK AT WHAT'S BEEN DONE, AND WHAT'S COMING:

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY JULY 27, 2024

In a partnership with Muck City Marketing Missions Matter, GOLDLAW gave away 50 backpacks filled with essential school supplies to help underprivileged students in the community prepare for the upcoming school year! In addition, GOLDLAW staff distributed tons of firm swag to the 400 residents who attended the event!



2024 SPONSORSHIP OF THE PAHOKEE PRIDE YOUTH ATHLETIC LEAGUE

GOLDLAW's sponsorship will provide four youth football teams and two cheerleading squads with funds to help cover the costs for equipment, uniforms, and transportation for their upcoming Treasure Coast Pop Warner Football League season.



At Least Off the Field, We Agree


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PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS



2024 MUCK BOWL

The annual "Muck Bowl," between Belle Glade and Pahokee is regarded as one of the premier high school football matchups in the United States. GOLDLAW is already playing an active role in promoting the match-up, via the following:

- Billboards promoting the game taking place on November 1st throughout Palm Beach County.

- NIL opportunities for athletes from both schools.
- On-site presence at the game.
- Heavy game promotion on all GOLDLAW social media platforms.
- On-site presence at the Muck Bowl and MORE! 

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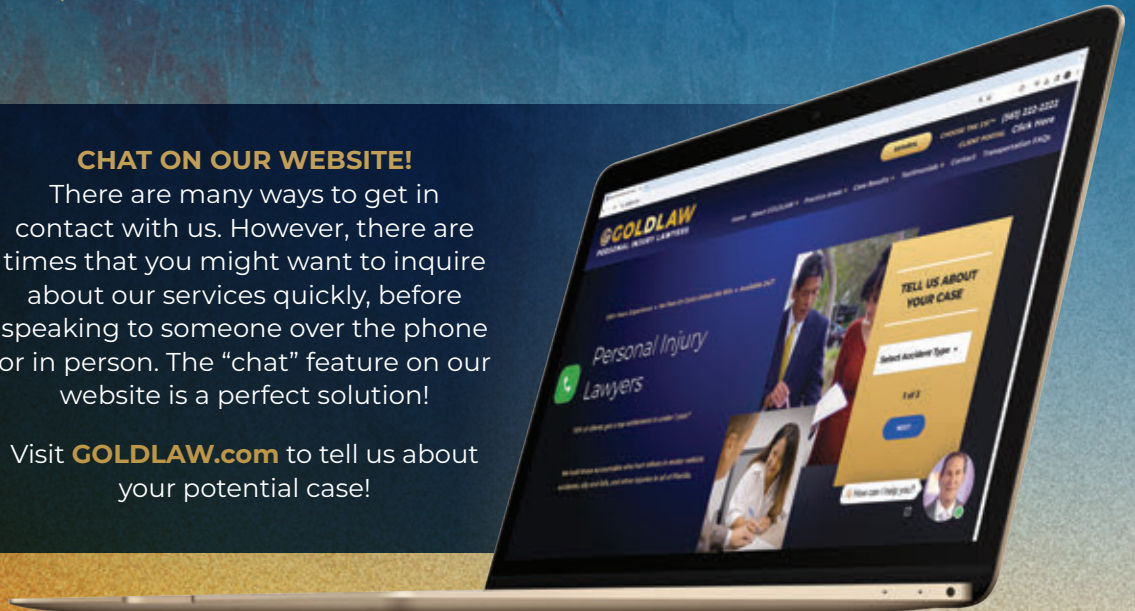
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