



MATASSINI

LAW FIRM P.A.

PROVIDING LEGAL REPRESENTATION THROUGHOUT FLORIDA, SINCE 1976

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Golf Carts Have Expanded Their Territory

About Us

Ever since Nick Matassini founded The Matassini Law Firm, P.A. in 1976, we have endeavored to provide outstanding legal advocacy in Tampa and throughout central Florida. Over the decades, we have built a reputation for concern, commitment and impressive results. Your choice of attorney to manage your personal injury claim or your criminal defense can be the most important decision you ever make. We encourage you to consider your options. Get to know the capable, caring attorneys at The Matassini Law Firm.

In the 1970s, golf carts began branching out from the fairways. Today, they are also a popular mode of transportation at gated and retirement communities, airports, sports facilities, college campuses, resorts, and farms, among other places.

Although golf carts are smaller, slower, and less intimidating-looking than cars, they can be just as dangerous. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there are roughly 15,000 accidents each year involving golf carts that require ER visits, with some fatalities mixed in. Over 30 percent involve children under age 16.

Many golf carts lack safety features such as seatbelts, doors, turn signals, and rollover bars. The CPSC states that nearly 40 percent of serious golf cart injuries occur when passengers are thrown from the vehicle, mostly during sharp turns. Handholds and hip-restraint bars affixed to the passenger seat are frequently inadequate to restrain passengers in these instances. Rollovers and overcrowding are problems, too.

Most golf carts are designed for speeds ranging from 10 to 25 mph. To be street-legal, golf carts must achieve speeds of 20 to 25 mph and generally can't be driven on roads with speed limits greater than 35 mph. Some additional requirements include seatbelts, lights (e.g., headlights, turn signals, brake lights, etc.), a horn, and a driver's license.

Golf carts generally weigh between 500 and 1,000 pounds. Even at "low" speeds, collisions can be devastating; same for passenger ejections. Distracted and impaired driving play roles in some golf cart incidents as well.

Golf carts are fun, convenient, and cost-effective but should never be taken lightly. If you or a family member is injured due to negligence, contact our office to schedule a free consultation. ■



Your Continued Referrals To Our Firm Are Your Highest Compliment

As Summer 2021 gets under full swing, I must take a moment to say thank you to all of our prior clients who continue to refer us traffic crashes, personal injury and criminal law cases. You are the lifeblood of our firm and we truly appreciate your continued trust in us. Since 1976, Matassini Law has been here to help the injured and accused in this community. Today, we are still going as strong as ever with a team of highly experienced lawyers and several support staff ready to assist clients with their needs.

Always remember that we are here for you and your family during your times of trouble and legal uncertainty. You can always tell a family member or friend to contact us for a free, confidential consultation on any issue. And if you ever need a referral for an area of law that we do not specialize in, do not hesitate to reach out to us for a qualified referral.

On behalf of the firm, I wish you all a healthy and happy Summer 2021.

Nicholas G. Matassini ■



Summer Olympics Trivia



In ancient Greece, the Olympics were held every four years from 776 B.C. through 393 A.D. to honor Zeus, the top dog on Mt. Olympus. (No year 0 caused a shift to odd-numbered years.)

In 393 A.D., Roman Emperor Theodosius I, a Christian, banned all pagan festivals. Bye-bye, Olympics. The Olympic games remained dormant until their rebirth in 1896 — the modern Olympics.

Contrary to popular belief, there was no marathon event in the ancient Greek Olympics. The marathon debuted in the 1896 Athens Games to commemorate Pheidippides, an ancient Greek who in 490 B.C. ran with the news of the Persian landing at Marathon to Sparta to summon military assistance.

In ancient Olympic competitions, only the winner was recognized. He received a wreath of olive leaves plucked from the sacred tree dedicated to Zeus, located behind the temple in Olympia. Today, of course, gold, silver, and bronze medals are awarded. However, the last pure gold medal was bestowed in 1912. Since then, “gold” medals are mostly silver with a gold coating.

Speaking of medals, the tradition of biting a medal during the awards ceremony harkens to business transactions of yore. Counterfeiters often disguised lead coins as gold ones. Since lead is a soft metal, it would show teeth marks; gold coins would not. Merchants used the bite test to avoid getting ripped off.

In the modern era, the five Olympic rings are symbolic of the five inhabited continents. Some geography models in 1896 counted North and South America as one continent — “the Americas.”

Many ancient Greek athletes performed in the nude, a practice that allegedly originated with the Spartans. Although nudity didn’t carry over to the modern Olympics, the speedo era in men’s swimming came close. ■



Common Causes of Wrongful Death

Wrongful deaths—those that are caused by the negligence or misconduct of another party—are more common than a lot of people think. For instance, it’s estimated that medical malpractice alone may be responsible for nearly 100,000 deaths annually.

While some wrongful deaths occur instantaneously because of a fatal injury, other deaths can take a long time to happen—sometimes many months or even years—from serious injuries such as traumatic brain injuries, internal bleeding or spinal injuries.

Some of the most common causes of wrongful death include:

- Car accidents
- Medical malpractice, such as serious surgical errors or medication errors. Other examples of medical malpractice can include misdiagnosis, failure to diagnose or a delayed diagnosis.
- Defective products, especially in cases in which medical products are involved.
- Dangerous drugs or drug interactions.
- Workplace injuries, especially at construction or manufacturing sites.
- Slip and fall premises liability injuries.

No matter what the cause or how long the wrongful death took to occur, surviving family members (such as a spouse or children – including adopted children) or, in some states, life partners or even distant family members, have the right to sue for wrongful death and recover compensation for damages they have suffered.

Wrongful death actions can be complex and difficult to file, so you are strongly encouraged to seek experienced counsel if you have questions about a loved one’s death or feel that you may have a potential claim. ■

July 2021 – Mark Your Calendars

July 1 – Joke Day July 3 – Cherry Pit Spitting Day July 7 – Chocolate Day July 8 – Blueberry Day
July 13 – French Fries Day July 18 – Ice Cream Day July 29 – Chicken Wing Day



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Splashing, Frolicking ... and Falling

During the summer, community pools and pools at hotels, theme parks, resorts, vacation rentals, and private residences are destination points. They are a refreshing way to beat the heat! However, amidst the fun, injuries sometimes intrude. Drowning incidents may come to mind first, understandably, but don't overlook slip-and-fall injuries.

Many pools open to paying guests incorporate textured concrete and nonslip coatings with their decks to provide better footing, but unattended spills of food, drinks, or sunscreen along with algae buildup can create treacherous conditions. Forceful human contact with concrete typically doesn't end well for the human. Injuries range from sprains and fractures to spinal and traumatic brain injuries. Potential drowning rears its ugly head when a slip-and-fall victim is sent plunging into the pool.

Changing-room and restroom floors frequently see water accumulation with foot traffic between the pool area and these locations. Concrete and tile floors can become slick in a hurry.

Diving boards may be poorly maintained, lack slip-resistant materials, or be defective. Same thing with diving board and water slide ladders, and steps leading into the pool.

Victims of slip-and-fall incidents typically need to prove that the pool owner knew of the hazardous condition, or should have known in the course of exercising routine, reasonable care to keep guests safe — their legal responsibility. Pool owners need to anticipate the risk of falls by utilizing traction mats and nonslip materials, posting warnings, and properly maintaining pool features and surrounding areas.

If you or a family member is injured by a slip-and-fall at a pool, the pool owner and/or product manufacturer may be liable for damages. Contact our office to protect your rights. ■

