

# Kalfus & Nachman



INJURY AND DISABILITY LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

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## Think Bicycle Safety in May

After a tough winter like the one we just had here in the Hampton Roads area, taking a bicycle for a spin in the fresh air is just what the doctor ordered.



The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) agrees, naming May as Bicycle Safety Month to encourage everyone, bicycle riders and drivers, to model safe behaviors for the safety of all road users.

This year's campaign motto, "Be a Roll Model," emphasizes the important part that both bicycle riders and drivers can play in reducing the risks of traffic accidents and preventable injuries and deaths.

### Bicycling Safety – Our Focus and Our Passion

Here at Kalfus & Nachman we are committed to Bicycle Safety in the community.

Attorney Tom Fitzgerald discussed "Sharing the Roads with Bicycles" on WAVY News' Hampton Roads segment. Attorney Fitzgerald emphasized that bicyclists and vehicle drivers must share the road and be respectful of each other, and highlighted legislation that has recently been brought up in the Virginia General Assembly:

- Mandate a 3-foot passing zone when passing a bicyclist. This is the law in 22 other states.
  - Treat bicyclists like vehicles so that if they are hit from behind, the car or truck driver will be at fault. Virginia is the **only** state not to give bicyclists this protection.
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## ....continued from page 1 **Think Bicycle Safety in May**

In 2012 Attorney Paul Hernandez appeared on WAVY's Hampton Roads show to share bicycling safety rules:

- The most severe injury for bicyclists is a head injury, so always wear a helmet – it's required by Virginia law. The helmet must fit well and clip tightly to the head, especially for children.
- Add visibility by wearing a reflective device that goes over clothes.
- Be sure to have a light on the front of the bike, as the law requires, and a red flashing light on the back in addition to all other bicycle reflectors.
- Bicyclists must follow the rules of the road just like a car – drive in the same direction as traffic and stop at stop lights. It's best to walk a bicycle across when crossing streets.
- Always assume that drivers don't see you.
- Stick to neighborhood roads instead of busy highways when riding with children.

### **National Bike to Work Week – May 11-15, 2015**

Did you ever consider bicycling as a commuting option? Read more about making that daily grind more economical and healthful too! <http://bikeleague.org/bikemonth>

## **When Is It Time to Tell Mom and Dad to Stop Driving?**

Are you the child of senior parents who are still driving around town locally? Just two years ago, my 75-year-old mother and her girlfriend from church wanted to drive from Roosevelt, NY to Norfolk VA, alone. My siblings and I were on pins and needles. My mother is an excellent driver but there are physical changes occurring naturally with age, and they impact her ability to respond while driving. She has driven this route many times, but now she is much older. Her ability to respond and react to hazards is a huge concern for us.



**The State of Virginia has developed a website "Recognizing the Signs" [www.granddriver.net](http://www.granddriver.net) .**

The Department of Motor Vehicles lists some of those signs that caregivers should be looking for when deciding on whether or not to continue to allow a senior to keep driving like the following:

1. Forgets to fasten seat belt before starting the car
2. Confused between pressing the gas pedal and stopping the car in stressful situations
3. Merging into traffic has become very challenging on busy streets and highways

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## **Our Attorneys**



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**Ask an Attorney  
a Question**

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4. Limited sight, especially at night
5. Ignores or "misses" stop signs and other traffic signals
6. They react slowly to sirens and flashing lights of emergency vehicles
7. Weaves, straddles lanes, drifts into other lanes or changes lanes without signaling
8. Gets lost or disoriented easily, even in familiar places
9. (2) or more traffic tickets, warnings, accidents in the past two years

If there is a concern, remember you are not alone. It could be a very uncomfortable conversation, and feelings can get hurt. This person that drove you home from the hospital the day you were born, and now you are telling them you are no longer comfortable with them driving.

The website on Granddriver.net has also set up a Granddriver Safety Questionnaire you can review with them, or you can suggest an appointment with a trained professional who can evaluate their driving skills.

**Remember safety is your priority, and at Kalfus & Nachman--we want you and your loved ones to be safe....**

## Do you know that dog attacks can also turn fatal and costly?

Dogs have always been man's best friend. As owners of dogs engage more and more in public places with their pets, it is important that we remain cautious in our interactions with them at all times. It is important always to remain cautious when interacting dogs you are unfamiliar with or unattended to by an owner. These dogs sometimes react in fear and instinct. In 2013 alone Dogs-Bite.org reported 32 dog related fatalities in the US. These are extreme cases, but there have been over 283 recorded deaths from dogs. Most of the deaths, 74% were caused by pit bulls and Rottweilers. Another startling statistic was that over 38% of the victims were visiting with the owner when the attack occurred, and children under the age of 7 accounted for 83% of these deaths in 2013. The Insurance Information Institute estimates that last year, \$483 million in claims were disbursed related to dog bites.



The American Society of Plastic Surgeons said that in just 2013 alone, 26,935 Americans underwent reconstructive surgery as a result of being bitten by a dog, taking into account most of these attacks happen to children. These operations usually include lacerations to the face and or scarring. The report also showed that there are over 3x's more dog bites each year than traumatic brain injuries and for children 66% of the bites they receive are above the neck.

Please utilize education materials when introducing small children to dogs for the first time. There are specific tools geared toward do's and don'ts when interacting with animals.

The United States Military has regulations for Military Housing Areas and owning breeds that are considered dangerous along with over 700 U.S. Cities.

If you or a loved one have been injured by the negligence of another, please give us a call today to schedule a consultation with a Norfolk personal injury attorney. Please visit the website and fill out the convenient online form.

### Links to Social Media:

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/VAPersonalInjuryKN>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Kalfus-and-Nachman/103386589709320>

Google+: <https://plus.google.com/103487244096412276397/posts>

# Click It or Ticket National Seat Belt Enforcement Mobilization May 11 - 25, 2015



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## Happy Mother's Day!



Happy Mother's Day

Whether your mother taught you how to ride a bike, or held your hand during a scary hurricane, or simply has been there for you every minute – be sure to honor her and celebrate Mother's Day on Sunday, May 10th.



As Seen On WAVY TV

Tune in for New Legal Matter Segments on

May 14, 2015 on WAVY TV

May 28, 2015 on WAVY TV