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and join a group of clients who learn about the latest Georgia legal news.

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We strongly believe that education is the first step in the prevention of any type of legal crisis. We've proudly worked to resolve our clients' dilemmas since 1990. We are in your community, have the experience and resources required to work toward your goals, and we're here to help. We also accept a limited number of injury cases each year resulting from serious auto, truck or motorcycle accidents.

Do you need a referral?

Chances are we can refer you to an excellent local attorney outside our area of practice: call us at 770.338.2338 or email jtowne@clarktowne.com.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: NORTH FULTON COMMUNITY CHARITIES

North Fulton Community Charities (NFCC) is a non-profit human service agency dedicated to preventing homelessness of individuals residing north of the Chattahoochee River in Fulton County. NFCC assists families with basic needs such as food, rent and utilities, and clothing during short term emergencies. Volunteers are essential to North Fulton Community Charities.

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"Most folks are about as happy as they make their minds up to be."

—Abraham Lincoln

6 Keys to Happiness

I'm exhausted hearing all the doom and gloom news as I drive around in my car. I'm trying to find "happy news" that I can relate to — not for escape, but to balance everything else I hear. Google directed me to French psychiatrist, Christophe André, who writes books about being happy. I like French food, so maybe he's got a point or two on happiness. I thought you might be interested in an edited version of his tips:

- Accept that there will be unpleasant things in life. All the time, every day you'll face hindrances: you'll be too late or make a mistake or say something stupid. It's the rent you pay to live in the house of life. It's part of life. There's no point in being disappointed when things don't go your way every time.
- Open your eyes and look around. There are more opportunities for happiness than you think. Embrace the moments. Try to remember them. Enjoy them.
- Take time out. The ability to pause, mentally as well as in your actions, is important.

Taking breaks is a prerequisite for experiencing happiness.

- Pay attention to your family and friends who love you for who you really are. Having "facebook friends" are nice, but it's more important to connect daily with the family and friends who are in touching-distance. Social ties are important for happiness. Don't let a day go by without thinking of, or seeing, someone you love.
- Try to get in touch with nature every day. Take a walk in the park and spend a few minutes looking at nature.
- Express your gratitude and show respect for the good things you experience. Being thankful makes you happy and increases the chance of social connection.

Reflecting on this list, I recognize many of the suggestions as ones I've seen a million times before. The list is overly simplistic. I think the reason we keep hearing this sort of advice is because it's true. It is remarkably simple to have a good life, if we define "good" the right way. Now, where is that recording of "Don't Worry, Be Happy?" I think I need to sing along a few times . . .

Back-to-School Bus Safety

It's back-to-school time already — here is your first pop quiz:

1. You must stop for a slowing or stopped school bus that has its lights flashing and stop sign out EXCEPT when:
 - a. You are behind it.
 - b. You are driving in the opposite direction on a road with no median.
 - c. You are driving in the opposite direction on a divided highway with a median.
 - d. Both b & c.



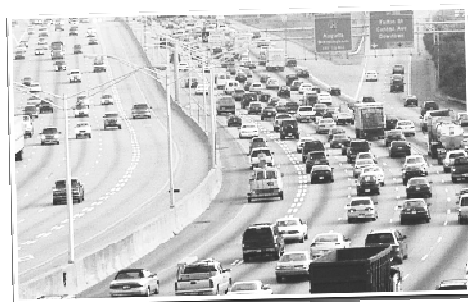
If you answered c, I know the kids are safe with you on the road.

Driving Safety Tip of the Month Georgia's Move Over Law

Have you heard of the "move over" law? It's the common-sense law that aims to prevent crashes with emergency vehicles parked along the roadway and save the lives of law enforcement and emergency workers.

The move over law requires drivers to move out of the lane closest to an emergency or law enforcement vehicle whenever possible. If it's unsafe or not possible to do this, you must slow your car to 20 mph below the speed limit. In other words, if you can't change lanes, slow down! Failure to move over or slow down results in a fine and points on your license. More importantly, not moving over

could cause a crash resulting in serious injury or death to you, your passengers, or an emergency worker. It's always a good idea to move over for any vehicles parked along the roadside, including those with simple engine or tire problems.



From Our Blog

I'm a DUI attorney with over 20 years experience yet I don't dare advise myself about tax laws. I hire a tax attorney for that. When I bought my house, in the eyes of the law I could have handled the closing documents myself, but I didn't. I hired a closing attorney with years of practice in real estate law. If a good friend comes to me looking for a lawyer to defend his child who was arrested for a violent crime, I connect him with the best criminal attorney I know who defends that kind of case. That is not my area of expertise.

Why would anyone hire a real estate lawyer to handle their DUI case? Because the real estate lawyer is hungry. His specialty has dried up. No one is buying houses anymore and he has his own mortgage to pay. So he invests in some new stationary, re-brands his website and voila – he is a DUI attorney. True story. Just ask my tax attorney who shares office space with an amazing chameleon lawyer.

Here are some tips to make sure you hire the right attorney:

- Interview your potential attorney in person if possible.

- Ask how many of the attorney's current cases are DUIs.
- Insist to meet only with a attorney; some firms use paralegals or secretaries to interview clients.
- Asses how comfortable you are with the attorney and how confident you are of his or her ability in your case.
- Ask questions and make sure they're answered to your satisfaction.



WHY WOULD ANYONE HIRE A REAL ESTATE LAWYER TO HANDLE THEIR DUI CASE?

Ask Jessica

Out-of-State DUIs

Question: I hold a GA license but was arrested for DUI in another state. Do I need a Georgia lawyer? Which state's rules apply?

Answer: You are not alone in your confusion. Each state has different penalties for DUI. This means you definitely need a DUI lawyer in the state where your charges are pending, and you should also consult a Georgia DUI lawyer so that both you and your out-of-state lawyer understand what will happen to your license. For example, in Georgia, the penalties for a first DUI include a one year license suspension*. In Tennessee, it's 90 days.

If you are a Georgia licensee but are convicted of a DUI in Tennessee, your suspension will be for 90 days. Remember that asterisk? If you lose your license in Georgia due to a Georgia DUI conviction, you can ask the Department of Driver Services to issue an immediate work permit so you can drive again. Most of the time DDS issues the work permit right away and

offers early reinstatement of your full license after 120 days with proof of DUI School and a large fee (remember, the full suspension in Georgia is really one year).

However, if you are convicted of DUI in another state, the Georgia DDS will not issue you a work permit until the state where you were convicted lifts its suspension. So if you get your DUI in Tennessee and lose your license for 90 days, Georgia will not issue you a work permit until those 90 days are over — and after those 90 days, you'll still need to wait another 30 days to reinstate, and you may want a work permit during that time.

What I regularly tell my clients is this: if you're arrested in another state and charged with a DUI on your Georgia license, hire a local, competent DUI lawyer in the state where you were arrested and then contact a Georgia attorney for advice on how to obtain a work permit as soon as possible. I am happy to refer you to a DUI attorney in the state, county or municipality where you need one.



HIRE A LOCAL, COMPETENT DUI LAWYER IN THE STATE WHERE YOU WERE ARRESTED AND THEN CONTACT A GEORGIA ATTORNEY.

Thank You, Jessica

The following note is from a person who did NOT hire me because he called me two days before court. Most of the time, people think they want a lawyer to fight for them in traffic court but don't expect to pay more than \$100 or so. When they hear how much I "have to" charge, they quite often find they can attempt to resolve the problem themselves. Sometimes I hear back when they realize they forgot to tell me a small detail that makes their case more complicated than the first discussion led me to believe, and then they hire me. Others, like this driver, find that spending a few hours of their own time in court pays off.

"I attended court today and proceeded with your suggestions. The prosecutor agreed to dismiss the ___ charge and I paid the lane violation and they closed the case. Thank you so much for your assistance. I will be sure to recommend you to anyone needing future legal representation."

— James H.

Thank You!

My Staff and I welcome the new clients who've joined the Clark & Towne family this past month, and we send our personal thanks to all those who referred friends and family and went out of their way to send notes of appreciation. Thanks also to all of you who took the time to request topics they would like to see addressed in this newsletter and on the clarktowne.com blog. Thank you and please, feel free to call the Office if we can be of help.