

Local Flavor

Celebrate "America Recycles Day" in Gwinnett County

On Saturday, November 19, the Gwinnett County Solid Waste Division will host its second annual America Recycles Day celebration at Coolray Field, home of the Gwinnett Braves. America Recycles Day is a nationally-recognized initiative dedicated to encouraging people to recycle more at home, at work, and on the go.

This celebration is free to the public and includes free paper shredding and electronics recycling (\$10 cash to recycle TVs),

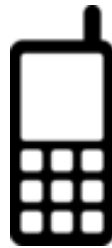
touch-a-truck, kids' activities and face painting, giveaways, and refreshments.

Residents are encouraged to bring canned foods to fill local Salvation Army shelves for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Last year residents brought more than 15 tons of paper to shred and 22,000 pounds of electronics, which saved 255 trees, 5,700 gallons of oil, 45 cubic feet of landfill space, 60,000 kilowatts of energy, 105,000 gallons of water, and prevented 900 pounds of air pollution!



Captain Recycle made an appearance at last year's event.



Do you need a referral?

It's important to hire an attorney who is an expert in his or her field of law. For over 22 years now we've represented DUI and serious traffic cases in metro-Atlanta. If you need a lawyer for a different matter, give us a call and we'll do our best to refer you to an expert local attorney in the area of law you need. Call us at 770.338.2338 or email jtowne@clarktowne.com.

WWW.CLARKTOWNE.COM

Volunteer Spotlight

Volunteer Resources for Gwinnett County Parks & Recreation

75 Langley Drive
Lawrenceville, GA 30046
<http://tinyurl.com/6jcua3n>
volunteerinparks@gwinnettcountry.com
770.418.2331

Volunteering is a strong Gwinnettian tradition that is invaluable to your parks! Our 'Volunteers In Parks' (VIPs) are very important people of all ages and interests.

We offer a variety of volunteering opportunities including: Natural Resource Assistants, Greeters/Customer Service, & Park Operations.

Additional Charities

Click "Law Links & Resources" on the DUI Information page of the clarktowne.com website for a detailed listing of charity web addresses and contact information.

Let Me Know

If you've worked with any non-profit in the area, let me know what you think of the organization and if I should continue to suggest it as a worthy place to volunteer. I'd also like suggestions of other local non-profits to add to this list.

Email: jtowne@clarktowne.com

Clark & Towne Believes...

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.

Pass this newsletter on to a friend or recycle



NOVEMBER 2011

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CLARKTOWNE.COM

"You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take."

~Wayne Gretzky

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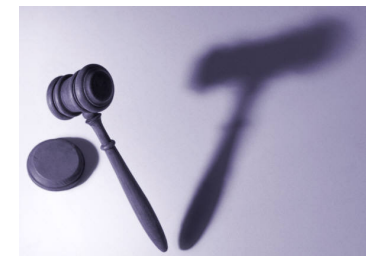
WE'RE HERE TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH ANY UNEXPECTED LEGAL CRISIS

What is the Administrative Hearing About?

During an Administrative License Suspension hearing, a judge reviews the facts of your arrest to ensure the arresting officer followed correct procedure when arresting you. As a result of an Administrative License Suspension hearing, the Georgia Department of Driver Services may suspend or revoke your driver's license. The hearing occurs before your criminal charges are resolved. The ALS hearing is a civil matter.

At the hearing, an Administrative Law Judge first decides whether the police officer had a legal right to stop you and then determines if the officer had a legal right to arrest you. Next, the judge looks at the breath test information. If you took a

breath test, the judge will determine if the officer read the consent warning to you, whether your test for alcohol content was legally above the limit, or if there was something wrong with the test results or its administration. If you refused a test, the judge will determine if



you in fact refused the test or if you tried to take back your refusal. If the evidence supports the arrest and other evidence against you, your license will be suspended. No under-21

drivers, nor drivers of any age with refusal, can have a work permit under these circumstances.

Take your criminal lawyer with you to the ALS hearing, or better yet, send your lawyer on your behalf. Your attorney will use the civil hearing to gather information for later use in defending you in the criminal case.

Finally, don't panic if you lose your administrative license hearing—it happens. If you took the breath test, are over 21 and have never had a previous administrative license suspension for a DUI, you'll likely qualify for a work permit.

Please Review Me on Avvo

I love it when happy clients review me on Avvo, Google or Yelp. Last month, Andy wrote on Avvo: "My wife and I got into a little bit of trouble a couple of years ago. We each received reckless driving tickets. We were told that this was a really big deal and that we should get a lawyer. Jessica was the person recommended to us. She was amazing. She told us exactly what her plan was and all the possibilities. We definitely felt

taken care of and in great hands. Now, she's the only person we recommend..." Read the rest of the review on my Avvo profile, and while you're there, add a review of your own. When you do, you'll receive a gift card too. And Andy, please call Carol at the office and let her know where to send your \$20 Starbucks gift card!

Scan this code with your smart phone to be taken directly to

my Avvo review page. You can easily leave an anonymous review of me there, and earn a gift card. If your phone isn't handy, use this web address: <http://bit.ly/iP3En0>.



Tips for Teaching Teen Drivers

◇ Plan where your teen will be driving. What safety considerations does this area involve? 4-way stops? Left turns? Hidden drives?

◇ Teach good road manners while letting teens practice driving. Take your time—lots of practice in an empty parking lot will pay off!

◇ Remember your teen is just that—a teenager. Your teen is still growing and maturing mentally and emotionally as well as physically. You gave them plenty of time to learn to walk; give them time now to learn to drive.

◇ Teach by example—practice good driving habits, courtesy on the road, and obey traffic rules!

◇ Consider a teen/parent safe driving contract.

See FearThis4Life.org for more information.

Community Resources

When a parent begins to think about adding their teen driver to their car insurance, they immediately worry about the cost. The good news is: Liberty Mutual can help. There are a number of ways you could save on your car insurance for your teen with Liberty Mutual.

We have recently partnered with SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and worked together to create a teen/parent safe driving contract. This contract opens the lines of communication between the parent and their teen driver to promote responsible behavior on the road.

Parents, talk with your teen about safety and responsible decision making, sign the contract, and receive an additional discount on your auto policy.

Feel free to contact Kimberly Fox with Liberty Mutual Insurance to receive a no obligation comparison. You can save hundreds with the discounts offered for teen drivers through Liberty Mutual.

You can download the teen/parent safe driving contract at <http://tinyurl.com/65rn2zm>.

Kimberly Fox



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From Our Blog

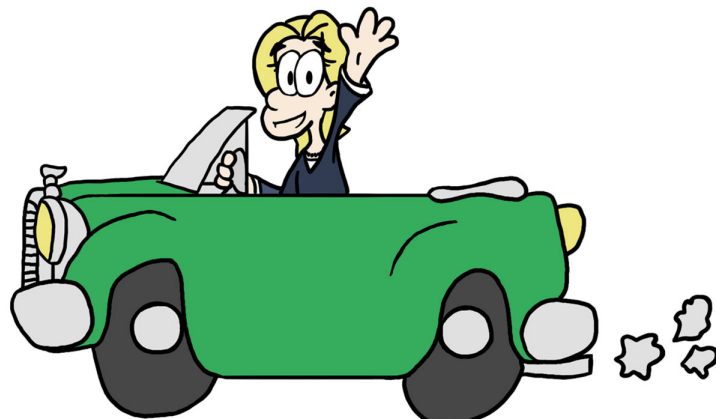
Gwinnett parents just don't know about the course—that is the only reason Gordon Fox and I can think of why so few people from Gwinnett attend the life-saving driving course he teaches.

Gordon has been training teens how to drive defensively for nearly 10 years, much of that time as an instructor with the nonprofit, Fear This, Inc. (FearThis4Life.org). Check out their site and sign your teen and yourself up for a driving course. The courses are modeled after the ones police take and are taught by certified police instructors. Once you and your teen have been through the training, you will both be much safer on the road.

Teen Driver Training

Gordon says, "We are getting a lot of referrals from the courts in Forsyth, Johns Creek, and Alpharetta" and wishes the Gwinnett courts would refer more kids to his program. But, of course, he and I want to see kids enroll before the courts decide they need a course in safe driving.

Don't wait for your kid (or you!) to have an accident – sign up now. The cost is minimal, the courses are taught all over Georgia, and they're scheduled often. I'm sure you'll find a convenient one near you.



Artwork by Lianna Gibson

Ask Jessica

Question: How does DDS determine the length of a license suspension?

Answer: Driving in Georgia is a privilege, not a right, and the Georgia DDS has the authority to rescind, cancel, suspend and revoke a driver's license for certain criminal and civil behavior.

DDS carefully follows laws which dictate how long a suspension lasts. One of the first items on their list is to examine a driver's "look-back" period. This is a list of all the driver's driving infractions and civil problems going back many years: 10 years for DUI, 24 months for points violations and five years for serious moving violations.

Sealing Records

Of course, the charge that causes a revocation or cancellation also factors in the length of your license suspension. For instance, if you are facing a license suspension due to non-payment of child support or nonpayment of a civil award from a traffic accident, expect a long suspension. If you drive on a lapsed insurance policy, you are also looking at a lengthy suspension.

What about a first DUI charge? That comes with an automatic one-year license suspension, although you may qualify for a work permit.

If you are convicted of DUI, Hit and Run, Fleeing and Eluding an Officer, Racing, any felony in which a motor vehicle is used, most drug violations

(even if a motor vehicle is not used), Vehicular Homicide and Serious Injury by DUI, or Reckless Driving, you must keep a clean driving record for ten years following a conviction, or face even longer and more severe suspension and revocation times.

Drivers under 21 at the time of the initial suspension must watch out for license points accumulation more vigilantly.

If you drive (even when sober) while your license is suspended for any reason, there is a mandatory minimum \$500.00 penalty and a jail sentence of two days to six months. The crime is a misdemeanor and the fine may be up to \$1,000.00.



Driving in Georgia is a privilege, not a right, and the Georgia DDS has the authority to revoke a driver's license for certain criminal and civil behavior.

Find Us Online

We're *everywhere* online. Read our articles or ask us questions. We'd love to hear from you.

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LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/clarktowne

You Tube: www.youtube.com/user/ClarkTowneAttorneys

Come join a group of clients who learn about how the law affects them.



WWW.CLARKTOWNE.COM

Thank You!

My staff and I welcome the new clients who've joined the Clark & Towne family this past month. I would also like to send out my personal thanks to all who have referred friends and family to us and recommended us online. My success over the years has been mainly built upon referrals from previous clients and friends. Referrals are the highest compliment I can receive.