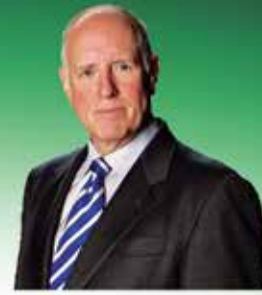


# Kalfus & Nachman



INJURY AND DISABILITY LAWYERS

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

[www.kalfusnachman.com](http://www.kalfusnachman.com)

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## Warm Weather Brings Extra Driving Concerns

Spring is in the air here in Virginia! And while we've put icy and snowy roads behind us, warm weather driving comes with its own set of challenges.



### Share the Road with Bicyclists, Runners and Tourists

You'll see more and more bicycles winding their way along our city, town and country roads. When passing a bicyclist, Virginia drivers must keep at least 3 feet between their car and the bicycle (Virginia DMV) even if it means crossing over a yellow line.

Watch out for runners, walkers and all pedestrians at any hour of the day or night. Slow down and always stop for any person in a crosswalk - even if not explicitly marked. Runners and walkers, always wear brightly colored clothing and run facing traffic. You can find more running safety tips here.

Did you know that our own Colonial Williamsburg is ranked 3rd in the U.S. for the best historical destinations and that Virginia Beach is one of the best family destinations? Give our visitors a break and be patient with increased road traffic and crowded parking areas at these popular destinations.

### Watch Out for Changeable Weather

When driving in the rain, be sure to put your headlights on - it's the law. Slow down on wet roads and avoid standing water. ....continued on page 2

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....continued from page 1 **Warm Weather Brings Extra Driving Concerns**

If the rain is heavy or if you're caught in a thunderstorm, pull over to the shoulder safely and leave your flashers on.

It doesn't take much water on the road to cause a hydroplaning scenario. Hydroplaning occurs when water pressure forces water under the tire so your car loses traction. If you feel your car hydroplaning, don't brake or accelerate suddenly. Keep your vehicle pointed straight ahead and take your foot off the accelerator to let the car regain contact with the road. Here are more safe driving tips.

### **Best Shoes for Safe Driving**

Is driving in flip flops more dangerous than high heels? The answer is a definite Yes! It's difficult to operate the gas and brake pedals with flip flops and they can get caught beneath a pedal, causing you to lose control of the vehicle.

Stick with shoes that have enough grip to prevent slipping off the pedals and soles that are no more than 1 inch thick. The shoe should fasten to your foot securely and not limit ankle movement. Stow your high heels, platform shoes, mules or flip flops in the back seat for a quick change at your destination.

### **Be Careful of Sun Glare with the Time Change**

Daylight savings time begins on March 13th. When the clocks move ahead for an hour, you may find yourself driving right into the sun with both your morning and evening commutes.

Be sure to use your car's sun visor and invest in a pair of polarized sunglasses - they can really make a difference. Leave plenty of following room and keep headlights on to increase your car's visibility. Always keep your windshield clean.

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## **Why Should I Take a Defensive Driving Course?**

Taking a defensive driving course, or driver improvement clinic, is a smart move. You'll learn how to anticipate situations to reduce the risks of driving and how to make safe, well-informed decisions. Course contents typically include:

- All about defensive driving
- Crash prevention techniques
- The dynamics of a crash
- Psychological and human factors that affect your driving including DUI
- Safety equipment
- A refresher on state traffic laws

In addition to making you a better and safer driver, these courses can save you some real money:

- Your insurance company may lower your rates.
- A traffic ticket may be dismissed.
- You can earn safe driving points and reduce the points on your driving record.

You can find more information on Virginia driver improvement clinics [here](#).



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If you or a family member has been denied Social Security Disability benefits or has been injured in an auto accident or any personal injury, it's important to get an attorney experienced in these types of cases involved immediately. Call **800-361-0430** for your initial free consultation. Kalfus & Nachman PC, Personal Injury attorney in Norfolk, can help you determine whether you need a lawyer for any personal injury case.

## Tips on Buying a Used Car for Your Teen

What's more stressful—teaching your kids how to drive, or figuring out the right first car to buy for them?

Everyone remembers their first car (for better or worse). And while every teen dreams of snagging a shiny new convertible as their first set of wheels, it's more realistic that you're looking for a reliable, affordable, used car.

But where to begin?

Turns out, there are 3 key components to consider when picking a used car for your teen. And no, "being cool" isn't one of them.

### Safety Features

AKA what matters most to parents, but doesn't even register with teen drivers.

The main safety features to look for when buying a used vehicle are:

- **Size:** The safest beginner cars are typically mid-size sedans, particularly those with 4-cylinder engines. Midsize sedans carry enough bulk to provide protection in an accident and are less likely to flip over or roll. 4-cylinder engines are more fuel-efficient, and also make it harder for inexperienced drivers to blast past the speed limit.
- **Air bags:** Ideally you want to find a car with *at least* 6 air bags, preferably more. Besides front air bags, safe vehicles possess 2 each of side-curtain and side-impact bags.
- **Antilock brakes:** Just about all modern cars come equipped with antilock brake systems (ABS), but some older models do not. ABS makes it much easier for drivers to stop quickly, a must-have for teens.
- **Crash test ratings:** Before settling on a car, check to make sure it scores at least 4/5 stars on government crash tests. You can view test scores at [safercar.gov](http://safercar.gov).

### Reliability

After safety, you need to know that your teen's car won't break down every night.

Reliability is always a nagging issue when buying a used car, and it's difficult to know beforehand just what to expect.

The absolute best way to get a feel for a car is to *actually drive it*.

You and your teen should both take turns putting the vehicle to the test, and not just on a leisurely cruise around town.

You need to check its performance at highway speeds, in city traffic, on steep hills and sharp turns, and (if possible) in rough weather.

Problems that might seem minor coasting through the neighborhood can become much, much worse at higher speeds.

If the car's owner doesn't agree to a test drive, it's probably better to walk away.

### On Recalls and Accident History

Even cars that pass the first two tests could have a hidden accident history you might not be too happy with.

For \$40 or less, companies like AutoCheck and Carfax can provide a report detailing a car's full accident history. These reports can reveal major crashes that the vehicle's owner isn't keen on revealing.

That said, Carfax and AutoCheck aren't always 100% accurate.



....continued on page 4

....continued from page 3 **Tips on Buying a Used Car for Your Teen**

The most foolproof way to detect prior damage is to have a trusted mechanic give the vehicle an in-depth examination.

Minor body damage likes scratches shouldn't automatically disqualify a car—your mechanic can tell you if there are any real red flags.

**The Final Word**

We know you're probably putting a ton of thought towards getting the best car for your new driver. At the same time, don't let the stress of finding "The One" consume your life.

There's no best car for every person, but giving your best effort is a step in the right direction towards keeping your teen safe behind the wheel.

*-Paul Hernandez*



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**St. Patrick's Day Safe Ride Home Program**

**Kalfus & Nachman**  
Kalfus & Nachman's Safe Ride Home Program will be available in the 757 area from 6pm until midnight on the night of St. Patrick's Day.

To get a free cab ride, call **Black & White Cab at (757) 855-4444** and ask for a cab from the Kalfus & Nachman Safe Ride Home Program

**THESE RULES APPLY**  
Cab rides are intended for those adults that consume night time drinks. Cab rides cannot be from one establishment to another. They are only to take you to your place of residence.  
Cab destinations must be in the same or adjacent city of pickup.  
Rides cannot be guaranteed for everyone, but every effort will be made to accommodate all requests.  
You must be 21 or older to receive a free cab ride.

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