



# LAW OFFICE OF WILLIAM J. LUSE

AFFORDABLE AND AGGRESSIVE REPRESENTATION

AUTO ACCIDENTS • EMPLOYMENT LAW • CRIMINAL DEFENSE

## The Road to Justice Starts Here

1-855-Get-Luse (438-5873) • (843) 839-4795 • www.GetLuseNow.com



## Computers on Wheels ... Can Be Hacked

Today's cars possess anywhere from 30 to 100 microprocessors (onboard mini-computers), and whenever computers are involved, hacking is a threat. It has been demonstrated that hackers can exploit vulnerabilities in a vehicle's wireless communication functions; within a mobile device connected to a vehicle via USB, Bluetooth, or Wi-Fi; and other third-party means.

Hackers may be able to gain access to personal information and wreak havoc with it. In a worst-case scenario, they can even remotely disable a vehicle's brakes, shut off the engine, commandeer the accelerator, and cause a crash.

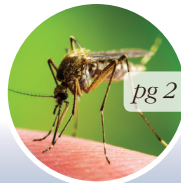
Thankfully, there has not yet been a recorded incident of a hacker causing a vehicle crash. A great degree of skill and time would be required to pull it off, but it is possible—a frightening thought. If or when it happens, the issue of liability emerges.

Accident liability would initially fall on the driver of the hacked vehicle. The driver would need to show that their vehicle was hacked, and that they took all necessary measures to prevent it. For instance, an automaker might issue a vehicle recall related to onboard computer vulnerabilities. If the driver/owner was aware of and ignored the recall, he/she would likely be liable for injuries and damages.

Automakers have a duty to keep consumers safe. If the automaker knew (or should have known) of a potential hazard but did nothing to fix it, they may be held liable. Of course, the hackers themselves would be subject to criminal and civil liability; however, tracking them down could prove difficult.

If you have been harmed by a vehicle defect, contact an auto product liability attorney to protect your rights. •

### August 2019 News





# Children and Motor Vehicle Accidents

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 150 children between ages 0 and 19 are treated **every hour** in emergency departments for injuries sustained in motor vehicle crashes and **more children ages 5 to 19 die from crash-related injuries than from any other type of injury.**

One of the best ways to help keep your children safe in vehicles is to know and understand the appropriate age, height and weight limits for car seats, booster seats and seat belt use:

**Birth up to Age 2** – For the best possible protection, infants and children should be buckled in a rear-facing car seat, in the back seat, until age 2 or when they reach the upper weight or height limit of their seat.

**Age 2 up to at least Age 5** – When children outgrow their rear-facing seat they should be buckled in a forward-facing car seat, in the back seat, until at least age 5 or when they reach the upper weight or height limit of their seat.

**Age 5 up until seat belts fit properly** – Once children outgrow their forward-facing seat they should be buckled in a belt positioning booster seats until seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs (not the stomach) and the shoulder belt lays across the chest (not the neck).

**Back Seat is Safest.** All children aged 12 and under should be properly buckled in the back seat. Airbags can kill young children riding in the front seat. Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an air bag. Buckle children in the middle of the back seat when possible, because it is the safest spot in the vehicle. ●

## Those Pesky ‘Little Flies’

One minute you’re outdoors enjoying a pleasant summer evening. The next, you’re slapping your arms and legs silly. Mosquitoes have crashed the party.

A mosquito “bites” with a long, pointy mouthpart called a proboscis. One tube in the proboscis draws blood from a capillary; a second one administers saliva that acts as a painkiller and anti-coagulant. An allergic response to the saliva causes swelling and itching afterward.

Only female mosquitoes suck blood. They need it to help their eggs develop. If they had their druthers, they’d stick to nectar like the males.

Mosquitoes are drawn to people by carbon-dioxide emissions, which are detected by receptors on their antennae. Those who inhale and exhale more frequently (e.g., larger people and pregnant women) will be targeted more often. Also, the more heat a person emits, the more likely they are to attract mosquitoes.

Sweat plays a role, too. Our skin produces over 300 chemical odors, some of which mosquitoes find alluring. Mosquitoes also have an affinity for beer drinkers, who have elevated ethanol levels in their sweat.

More ominously, mosquitoes are carriers of some of humanity’s most deadly illnesses, such as malaria, yellow fever, encephalitis, and dengue, to name a few. Worldwide, they contribute to millions of deaths each year. And all they need to perpetuate the misery is a tiny amount of standing water to lay their eggs.

To be fair, mosquitoes possess a couple of redeeming qualities: They are a plentiful source of food for many creatures, and the design of their proboscis is being studied to develop less painful hypodermic needles and insertion methods. Beyond that, engendering goodwill toward mosquitoes is a difficult assignment. ●



# Happy Birthday, Social Security!



August 2019 Notable Dates

- August 2**  
National Coloring Book Day
- August 4**  
National Friendship Day
- August 8**  
National Happiness Happens Day
- August 15**  
National Lemon Meringue Pie Day
- August 19**  
National Aviation Day
- August 24**  
National Waffle Day
- August 28**  
National Bow Tie Day
- August 31**  
National Trail Mix Day

When the Social Security Act was signed into law in August 1935 by President Franklin Roosevelt, it wasn't a completely new idea. Following the Civil War, war veterans rendered disabled as a consequence of their service, war widows, and now-fatherless children numbered hundreds of thousands. A pension program was established to help them—a precursor to the Social Security Act.

(As of early 2019, a daughter of a Civil War veteran was still receiving Civil War benefits! For the record, her father was 83 years old when she was born and had married a woman over 50 years his junior.)

Significant factors besides the Great Depression led to the Social Security Act. Extended families, who all chipped in to care for elderly family members, began to wither. Many family members headed to the cities in the early 1900s to find work, weakening this social construct. Also, between 1900 and 1930, life expectancy improved by 10 years; those who needed assistance were requiring it for a longer span.

Initially, minorities and women were denied Social Security benefits—a sign of the times—as were many who were employed in social service sectors. Through 1940, recipients received lump-sum payments; monthly payments began thereafter.

Since 1961, workers can choose to begin collecting early Social Security at age 62 at a permanently reduced monthly rate (instead of full retirement at age 65, 66, or 67). Permanently increased monthly benefits can be collected if you wait until age 70. But here's a little secret: No matter when you begin to draw Social Security, you'll be at roughly the same payout total at age 79, the age of average U.S. life expectancy. Something to consider when pondering your retirement decision. •

# LAW OFFICE OF WILLIAM J. LUSE

AFFORDABLE AND AGGRESSIVE REPRESENTATION

917 Broadway Street • Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
331 Tom Gasque Avenue • Marion, SC 29571  
1-855-Get-Luse (438-5873) • www.GetLuseNow.com



Computers  
on Wheels ...  
Can Be Hacked  
pg 1

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

## Focus and Patience Required in School Zones

By the time late August rolls around, many school zones are once again bustling with activity: students walking/bicycling to school, parents picking up or dropping off their kids, and buses delivering or gathering their precious cargo.

But despite lowered speed limits, marked crosswalks, signage, and warning lights to improve school-zone safety, some drivers don't pay attention or abide by the law. According to the Transportation Research Board, nationwide approximately 100 students are killed annually in school-zone accidents, and roughly 25,000 are injured.

Distracted driving and speeding are frequent culprits in school-zone accidents. Studies have shown that distracted driving is as dangerous as driving intoxicated. As for speed, traveling 10 mph over a school-zone speed limit of 25 mph increases stopping distance by nearly 40 feet in normal conditions. Additionally, parents who drop off or pick up their kids at non-designated areas often force them to navigate traffic.

School kids can make things dicey, too. Cell phone usage or listening to music can distract them while crossing the street. Students may cross at unmarked areas instead of designated crosswalks. Or, they cross where they're supposed to but mistakenly assume a distracted driver will stop.

Drivers shoulder the lion's share of responsibility for school-zone accidents. Student pedestrians will be held to a lower standard of conduct—in circumstances in which an adult pedestrian may be found partially responsible for an accident, a child pedestrian frequently will not be. A parent or guardian will need to file a personal injury claim on behalf of an injured child.

If your child is injured in a school-zone accident, contact a personal injury attorney to protect their rights. ●

