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September 2021



By September, schools around the country are back in session. We wanted to quickly go over some key items in school bus and crosswalk safety! These tips and precautions especially come in handy in a college town like Charlottesville!

School Bus Safety

You've probably already seen a sharp increase in buses on the road. According to the Virginia DMV, nearly one million students are transported in school buses daily across Virginia to school, field trips, athletics and other school-sponsored activities.

Drivers are required to follow certain laws when encountering a school bus. Virginia motorists must:

- Stop for stopped school buses with flashing red lights and an extended stop sign when approaching from any direction
- Remain stopped until everyone is clear and the bus moves again
- Stop whenever the bus is loading or unloading passengers, even if the lights and stop sign are not activated

If a school bus is on the opposite side of a median or barrier, motorists aren't required to stop; however, drivers should be prepared for students exiting the school bus and crossing into their lanes.

Motorists should also watch for children gathering near bus stops, and walking in groups to and from the bus stop.

Crosswalk Safety

Since July 2020, it is now law for drivers to fully stop, not just yield, for pedestrians in all crosswalks in Virginia or they could be slapped with a \$500 fine. Sadly, even with this law there are still many accidents involving pedestrians. Here are some tips for being as safe as possible when crossing the road.

- Try to always cross a street in a designated crosswalk. If there is no crosswalk or intersection, go to a well-lit area with the best view of traffic, wait until there is enough time to cross safely, and continue to watch for traffic while crossing.
- If there's no sidewalk, always walk facing oncoming traffic. (Pedestrians are required to walk on the sidewalk when one is available.)
- Look left, right, and left again before stepping off a curb.
- Never assume that a driver sees you. Try to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Dusk and dawn are the most dangerous times for pedestrians. Take extra precautions — wear light-colored clothing or reflective tape so you're more visible to other travelers.
- When walking with children, always grasp their hands firmly to ensure they don't break away and dart into traffic. Talk with them about the steps you're taking to cross safely.
- If you're not sure you have enough time to get across the street before the light changes, wait for a "fresh" green light or walk signal, as it will give you the most time to cross.



The Warren Firm Pedestrian Accident Case

Our client was a young University of Virginia student who was injured in a pedestrian versus vehicle collision that occurred in Charlottesville. He was crossing the road when he was struck by an inattentive driver. The driver had bent over to pick up a pen and didn't see our client in the crosswalk. He struck our client who was unresponsive and lost consciousness at the scene. The driver was charged with failure to yield to pedestrians.

After the incident, our client was transported by ambulance to the University of Virginia Medical Center. He sustained heavy trauma to the head and face, and was ultimately found to have reduced peripheral vision, which was a permanent injury.

This case required the filing of a claim with our client's automobile insurance policy because the driver did not have enough coverage. We were able to successfully resolve the claim with 90% of all available coverage.



Photo by Ryan Ledbetter on Unsplash

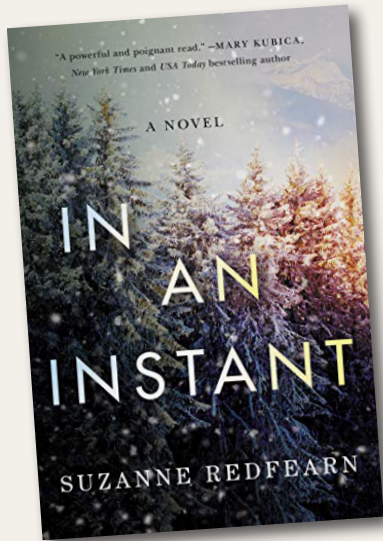
Second Annual Survivor Scholarship

Once again, our firm is proud to offer The Survivor Scholarship! This scholarship is an opportunity for students to share their story of a difficult time in their life and how they have grown from it, and how they hope to use their past experiences to make a difference for others in the future. One winner will be selected and receive \$1,000! Use your smart phone to scan this QR code for full details and requirements! Share it with anyone you think may be interested!



Note From Vaden: While going through our "First Day of School" archives, we found this gem from 2016 of the kiddos heading to school. We recently dropped our daughter off at college, so it was fun to reminisce.

BESTS OF SEPTEMBER



Book

Vaden recently read the book ***In an Instant*** by Suzanne Redfearn and highly recommends it. It's a story about the power of love, family, and carrying on after tragedy strikes.

C'ville Lunch Spot

Vaden and Valerie (the firm's paralegal) both love **Ivy Provisions** for sandwiches! They're incredible. Vaden's daughter worked here most of the last few years!



What to Plant

It's right time to plant those cool-season veggies! The best plants for this month are **radishes, spinach, lettuce, kale and mustard.**



REUSABLE LUNCH ITEMS

Whether you're packing your kindergartener's lunch, or packing your own lunch for the workday, here are some reusable items that will save your wallet, and the planet!



Simple Modern Insulated Water Bottle (Amazon)

Bentgo Stackable Lunch Box (Target)



Keeper Reusable Sandwich Bags (Walmart)

**We focus our practice on
cases involving:
Personal Injury
Wrongful Death
Children's Injuries
Bicycle Accidents
Auto Accidents**



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