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SUMMER  
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## Are driverless cars in our near future?

The automotive industry has fast-tracked plans for the self-driving automobile, and even tech giants like Google and Apple are jumping on board.

However, despite the best efforts of scientists and engineers, it may be some time before driverless cars become widely available and driven in numbers great enough to positively impact traffic safety in any tangible way.

According to the consumer information website, **CarsGuide.com**, driverless cars still face a number of hurdles before they hit the mass market. Technical issues, regulation issues and public acceptance all are areas that will need to be addressed.

Some technical challenges driverless cars face include developing camera resolution that would make driving at night safe and developing computers that would be able to respond quickly to obstacles that appear suddenly in the road such as pedestrians or animals.

**CarsGuide.com** quotes a major car retailer as saying that, perhaps, it might be best to test driverless cars with limited use in communities much like golf carts.

Roads and highways also would likely need to undergo changes in terms of having "automated lanes" to accommodate self-driving vehicles. While autonomous vehicles are still almost a decade away from being put into practical use, the automotive and technology fields will continue to work out the kinks in what could promise to be the car of the future.

## How to survive a sobriety checkpoint

The use of sobriety checkpoints is a well-established police tactic designed to get intoxicated drivers off the roads. You are more likely to see a checkpoint around holidays and other special events where people tend to drink and drive more – i.e. Memorial Day, Fourth of July, or Labor Day.

The constitutionality of these checkpoints was upheld by the United States Supreme Court in a 1990 case, *Michigan Department of State Police v. Sitz*. While effective at catching intoxicated drivers, there is a chance of police overreach in these situations. Follow these tips to get through a sobriety checkpoint without incident.

- ▶ Don't drive while intoxicated.
- ▶ Don't run! If you turn off or execute a U-turn to avoid a checkpoint, odds are you will be pulled over.
- ▶ Make sure your driver's license, vehicle registration, and insurance are valid.
- ▶ Never travel with an open container of alcohol, drugs, or drug paraphernalia in your vehicle.
- ▶ Be polite and respectful to the officers at the checkpoint.
- ▶ Remind your passengers that as the driver, you are responsible and will do the talking. You do not want a disrespectful passenger making things worse.
- ▶ Politely decline to answer any incriminating questions the officer asks. You have the right to an attorney and should exercise it.

If you are arrested for driving under the influence or driving while intoxicated, contact our office right away. Our attorneys are experienced in DUI/DWI cases and will make sure your rights are protected.

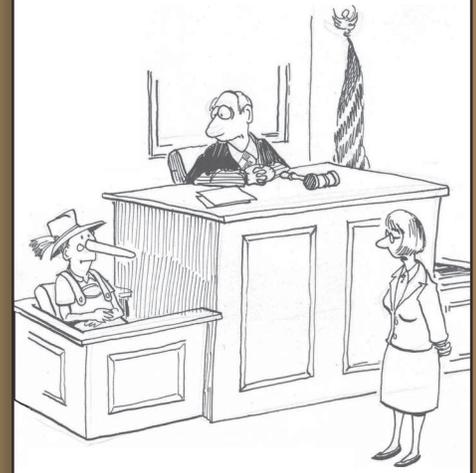
# Monster energy drinks wrecking havoc

Monster energy drinks have been linked to five deaths, according to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. This has led to a several lawsuits being filed against Monster Beverage Corporation. The lawsuits are focused on the unwarmed-of health effects of consuming the massive doses of caffeine present in the energy drinks.

In one case, a fourteen-year-old went into cardiac arrest while watching TV on her couch after consuming two cans of Monster energy drink in the previous 24 hours. The two cans contained a combined total of 480 milligrams of caffeine, the equivalent of 14 cans of Coca-Cola.

Another case involved a man with a one energy drink per day habit which contributed to his death. There was also the case of a 19-year-old man who had been drinking 2-3 cans of Monster per day until he went into cardiac arrest.

Monster is accused in each of these cases with failing to provide warning of the health dangers associated with the consumption of the high levels of caffeine present in their energy drinks. If you or a loved one are having any health problems that may be related to consuming energy drinks, see a doctor right away and call our office for a consultation.



*“Perhaps you would like to rephrase your last answer.”*

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*David worked as hard on a small claim as if it were a million-dollar loss. I hope I won't need his services again, but if I do, I'll trust no one else.*

– Gayle G.



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## Common amusement park injuries more down-to-earth than expected

While you may think the riskiest part of an amusement park would be the big rides that move people through the air at high speeds, the most common type of accident is much more earth-bound - the slip and/or trip-and-fall.

Many families will be enjoying vacations at theme parks and water parks this summer. While most parks are well-maintained and safe, accidents can happen at even the happiest places on the planet. When a park guest slips or trips and falls, causing a serious injury, the park may be liable for damages. If the guest decides to pursue damages, they must prove fault just like in any other slip-and-fall case. To prove fault, it must be shown that the park failed in its duty to protect their guests. The burden of proof in these types of cases falls on the victim. To prove that the park is liable for an injury, a victim must show that the park knew about a dangerous condition on the property and did not fix it, caused a dangerous condition and did not fix it, or should have known about a dangerous condition because a reasonable person would have known about it.

In addition to proving fault, any injured party must prove that their actions were reasonable in order to win their case. If the injured guest was acting in an unsafe manner, was in an off-limits area, or ignored warning signs, the chances of winning their case drops. In order to have the best chance at recovering damages, anyone injured at an amusement park should consult with an attorney experienced in premises liability cases.

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