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THE PITTMAN PRESS

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CAR INSURANCE RATES AND YOUR CREDIT SCORE

Did you know that insurance companies take your credit score into consideration when determining your car insurance rate? In recent years, insurance rates have increased directly due to the credit score of the insured. The insurance companies claim that their studies have shown those with a poor credit score are 40% more likely to file a

claim on their car insurance, regardless of their driving record. No independent studies have been performed to support their claim. — Source—Automotive.com

The Insurance Commissioner of Florida have been working on regulation (Rule: 690-125.005) to prohibit the insurers from requesting a credit report or credit score to determine a rating method 'unless it adheres to written procedures in Section 626.9741, F.S in the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act'. The complete history of these actions can be found on the Florida Insurance Regulations website—<http://www.flair.com/CreditScoring.aspx>

So what do you do? Call your Florida State Insurance Commissioner and let him know your position on the matter. In the meantime, take a look at your own credit report each year to see what may be affecting your score. You can get your credit report FREE one time a year at www.annualcreditreport.com. This is the website where it's provided to you FREE without obligation of membership or monitoring service. You can run a report from each of the 3 credit reporting agencies—TransUnion, Experian and Equifax. You will be prompted to create a username and password for security as well as easy retrieval of the reports and to use when returning the following year to generate them again. Takes steps to keep the credit report clean.

- Pay cash whenever possible.
- Pay your bills on time each month. Even a couple of days could result in the creditor submitting your late payment to one or all of the reporting agencies.
- Make the minimum payment. Paying something is better than nothing.

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Upcoming Events

- October 12—Columbus Day
- October 31—Halloween
Slow down and watch out for the children out Trick or Treating.



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Newsletter@pittmanfirm.com

CAR INSURANCE RATES AND YOUR CREDIT SCORE *Continued*

Helping to keep your family informed!

“Every day do something that will inch you closer to a better tomorrow.”

Doug Firebaugh-

For more inspirational quotes, go to: www.inspirational-quotes.com

- Limit the number of open credit lines. Too many will be viewed that you are financially over-extended.
- Try to keep credit card balances low.
- Budget your other expenses like you would rent and utilities.
- Balance your checking account to avoid overdrafts or bounced checks.
- If you are having trouble paying your bills, contact the creditor to work out a payment arrangement.

Keeping your good credit score is much easier that trying to repair it once its damaged. Bad credit will negatively affect your financial future so take charge and run your FREE credit report today!

If you received this electronically and would prefer a printed copy, let us know at: newsletter@pittmanfirm.com.

PEDESTRIAN: THE RULES OF THE ROAD

You could be taking your life in your own hands just walking along some streets in town. Many of these roads were designed and built decades ago when the population and area development were minimal. Today the roads are populated with cars, trucks, motorcycles, and school buses and the speed limits are much higher than what they may have been designed for. Add a pedestrian and inattentive driver and it can have catastrophic results. School is now back in session and more students will be walking on roadways to and from bus stops. As a driver, stay alert and watch for anyone standing or walking along the roadway. Should they step into your path, you will be able to react quickly.

There are laws that grant a pedestrian the ‘Right of Way’ but you must also use “due care”. Some intersections have signals, crosswalk markings or other traffic devices that convey the absolute right of way but what about the streets that don’t have these devices? As a pedestrian, never assume you can cross simply because a lane marking indicates you should be able to. Follow the basic safety tips to ensure your safety while crossing the street.

1. Walk facing traffic so you can see oncoming traffic and

take evasive action if necessary.
2. Use a crosswalk, when available. If crossing mid-block, a pedestrian must yield an approaching driver.



3. If a sidewalk is provided, a pedestrian is obliged to use it if practical, otherwise keep as far left as possible on the shoulder of the road.
4. **LOOK BOTH WAYS!** This basic rule that we all learned when we were young should be observed even when crossing in a crosswalk. If an inattentive driver approaches, you will be able to take steps to stop or reach the other side safely.
5. As a driver, you should always yield to pedestrians when leaving any parking lot, alley way or any roadway that crosses a sidewalk.

To review the [Pedestrian Law Enforcement Guide](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/Safety/ped_bike/ped_bike.shtm) go to http://www.dot.state.fl.us/Safety/ped_bike/ped_bike.shtm. It includes statistics related to pedestrian-motor vehicle crashes and other safety tips to avoid being involved in an accident as a pedestrian or driver.