



Feb.—March 2007
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The TMA Group—Our Job is Getting You to Yours



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AGGRESSIVE DRIVING MUST STOP!

During the last week of February, our office received a complaint each day about specific vans driving aggressively. Not 1, 2, 3, or 4 but 5 complaints! Actions like these must be stopped! Aggressive driving endangers drivers and riders.

The TMA Vanpool Primary Driver Lease Agreement states: A) TMA may terminate this Agreement by giving the Driver a 24-hour written notice...for cause, which may include but not be limited to: #2. A safety complaint. B) Also, under The Driver...Agrees to section, #15 states: Operate the van in a safe manner in accordance with applicable insurance policies, laws, ordinances, rules and regulations.

Just what is Aggressive Driving?

Aggressive driving is defined as a progression of unlawful driving actions such as:

- Speeding
- Improper or excessive lane changing
- Failure to signal intent
- Failing to see that movement can be made safely
- Running red lights
- Tailgating
- Or improper passing

Did you know that that in the U.S. about 42,000 traffic fatalities occur every year and about 6.5 million injuries annually at a total cost of 200 billion dollars. In a decade 420,000 Americans are killed on the road, 65 million are injured, and a whopping two trillion dollar cost in repairs, injuries, insurance, and economic loss is incurred.

Take note—the driving public is very aware of aggressive drivers; even more so if the vehicle being driven displays The TMA Group's logo, telephone number and website. We

expect all vanpool drivers and back-up drivers to obey the rules of the road, and extend driving courtesy to other drivers. Any type of aggressive driving is considered a threat to the safety of the passengers as well as the driving public. Actions such as these can not be tolerated.

Keep these things in mind:

- Your actions behind the wheel effect others and can have serious consequences
- It is more important to arrive safely than to arrive first.
- Other drivers take note of all TMA drivers and vans.
- The TMA keeps a record of all aggressive reports in the driver's file.



REPORT ACCIDENT CLAIMS IMMEDIATELY TO:

Synaxis Polk & Sullivan
615-385-8341
(Kay Biggs)
-and-
MiMi Lee
615-790-4005 or
After Hours:
615-517-6321

Van Voices is a publication of The TMA Group.

For more information about our services and programs, contact us: (615) 790-4005

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CLICK IT or TICKET—What you need to know

Click It or Ticket is an education and enforcement campaign of Tennessee's seat belt laws. Sponsored by the Governor's Highway Safety Office, the campaign aims at reducing serious injuries and fatalities on Tennessee's roadways by reminding everyone to buckle up. Alan Waddell, Program Manager, Governor's Highway Safety Office states "In Tennessee, buckling up is the law." Here are some Q & A's regarding the program:



- Who is covered by the law? All drivers and passengers, regardless of age, are covered by the seat belt law and must have a seat belt properly fastened about their bodies at all times when the vehicle is on a street or highway.
- Can I be ticketed for unbelted passengers? Drivers are responsible for themselves and for all child passengers less than age 18 in the front or back seat. Licensed passengers 16 or older are responsible for themselves and will be ticketed instead of the driver. The 2004 Law allows law enforcement to stop a vehicle if the driver and passengers are not properly restrained.
- Isn't it my personal right to choose to buckle up or not? All traffic laws impose some limitation of choice on individuals. It is important to remember that driving is not a "right" but a privilege, granted and controlled by the State of Tennessee. Citizens often accept the legitimacy of traffic laws because it is apparent to them that failure to obey the law could result in harm to the motorist or others. Opponents of the seatbelt law often claim that no one else would be hurt if they do not use seat belts. This is not true. Unrestrained occupants often injure others in crashes, and unbelted drivers have less control during a crash, often increasing the severity. Increased injuries result in increased costs to all Tennessee citizens.

For more information about Tennessee's seatbelt law visit:

<http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/ClickItorTicket/faq.htm#15>

The TMA Group is not responsible for tickets received by drivers and/or riders for not wearing seatbelts when riding in a TMA vehicle.

IMPORTANT NEWS

The TMA Group has moved! Our new address is:

708 Columbia Avenue
Post Office Box 266
Franklin, TN 37065



Congratulations to Vicky Rowland! She is our first winner of a Vancentives gift card!

The Vancentives Reward Program is The TMA Group's way to recognize and thank vanpool drivers and riders for their efforts in implementing and maintaining The TMA Group's vanpool program. For more information, contact MiMi at 615-790-4005 or mimi@tmagroup.org



Vanpool Update



Live in the Murfreesboro area and work in Nashville?

Let us know! The TMA Group is currently collecting information to see if there is a need for a new vanpool traveling from Murfreesboro to Nashville, Monday through Friday. If you or someone you know is interested, drop MiMi Lee an email at: mimi@tmagroup.org

We want to hear from you!



Daylight Savings Time begins
March 11

Don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour this Sunday to mark the beginning of Daylight Savings Time.