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JUNE 2021

WHISLERLAWFIRM.COM

# A 'FRUSTRATION' FIND

## Sometimes, It Pays to Be Put on Hold

Have you heard of the Real ID Act? I'm sure you have — at this point, we've all at least been told we will have to upgrade our regular driver's licenses to the more secure Real ID in the future if we want to continue to live convenient lives. To do that, we just need to go to our DMV on a specially booked appointment and bring proof of our entire lives, or at least that's how it seems.

A few months ago, with the deadline for the Real ID approaching supposedly later this year, I found myself on the phone with the DMV. Well, actually, I found myself on hold — except for brief periods where I'd reach a real live person who would say, "You can't just come in, you need to book an appointment," and then put me on hold for five minutes until the scheduling person could get on and tell me they didn't have any spots available before my 75th birthday.

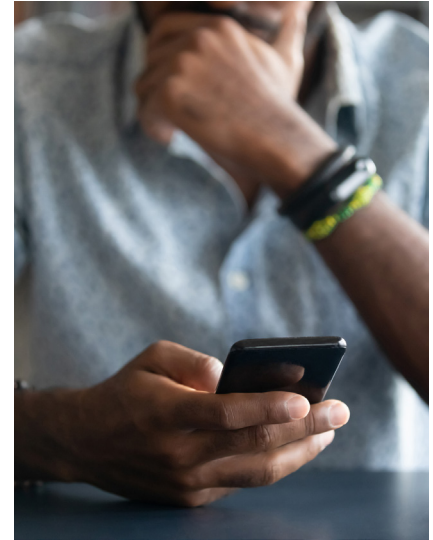
But while I was waiting for someone new to pick up the phone, I finally started listening to the hold music and messages that had been looping since the first person shuffled me along an hour before. One message in particular caught my attention — and I realized I wanted to share it with all of you, for several reasons.

The message was simple: Head to [Services.flhsmv.gov/eci](https://services.flhsmv.gov/eci) and update your emergency contact information in Florida's database. In an emergency, first responders can put your Florida driver's license or ID card into the system, and it will immediately give them the names and phone numbers of people you want contacted in an emergency.

Not surprisingly, my phone call did not provide any resolution, but maybe that was okay, because as I looked up the state website, I realized this was something of real value — in fact, it was a really good idea. Most people have emergency contact info in their phone, but what if your phone is dead or you left it at home because you were just heading to the corner store for a jug of milk? People used to carry cards around or wear wristbands with similar info. But this system negates the need for all that; put in the name and number of your spouse, parent, child, or sibling, and that person will get a call if you're in an accident and unable to call.

Maybe it's just the lawyer with years of injury experience in me talking, but it's not hard to imagine a situation where that might come in handy. More than handy: It could mean getting to a loved one in time to make life-and-death decisions on their behalf, or even just in time to say goodbye. I can think of one situation in particular where a young woman was severely injured in a car accident and, while conscious, was not going to survive the night. Too weak to tell the hospital whom to call, her mother spent those last hours of her daughter's life worried that she hadn't come home — and when the authorities finally found her, it was too late.

So, I want to encourage you all to put at least one name in the database for yourself and encourage your friends and loved ones to do the same. I know this is the injury lawyer talking, but DUIs always go up in the summer, and accidents are common when everyone is enjoying the night and



driving around as they do. While you're at it, shake off the stasis of this past year and make sure you're ready for life to resume in general. Is your insurance updated, or did it lapse during the pandemic without your agent telling you? Is your driver's license current? Review your emergency plans, make sure you renewed your policies, and make a list of your doctors easily available. Who takes care of your kids if you have to go away for a long time? Your animals? You don't want to figure these things out in the moment, assuming you have the chance to.

I keep all that stuff in a cloud folder that my emergency contacts know how to access. And I signed up for that website, too. My emergency contacts are in there, and I'm in there as an emergency contact for a few others. And thank goodness — a week after that frustrating "on hold" phone call, they pushed the Real ID deadline back until 2023. If I'd procrastinated another week, I'd never have found out about [Services.flhsmv.gov/eci](https://services.flhsmv.gov/eci) at all — and I'm so glad I did.

*-Josh Whisler*

# Light Up Your Life

## Get the Most Out of Each Lightbulb

We've all stood in front of the lightbulb section at the home improvement store. There are so many to choose from. But most of the time, we just grab the one we know will fit in any given spot. We don't always consider things like color temperature, brightness, wattage (outside of compatibility with lamps or sockets). However, the bulb you choose does matter. The type of light it puts out can dramatically change a room — and not just in appearance, but functionality, too. Consider the following:

### Working Spaces (Kitchen and Bathrooms)

These rooms, more or less, are utility rooms. They serve specific functions. In the kitchen, you prepare meals and cook. Kids may do homework in the kitchen. In the bathroom, you get ready for work. You may choose outfits, put on makeup, groom yourself, and so on. In these rooms, you need to see detail.

As such, brighter lightbulbs are essential. These bulbs give off 5,000–10,000 lumens and have a bright or cool white color temperature (the packaging may say 4,100 kelvins). Day lightbulbs are a good option as well (5,000–6,000 kelvins). The type of bulb (incandescent, compact

fluorescent, LED, halogen, etc.) isn't as important as the first two features. A bright bulb that emits cool light will open up the room, allowing you to clearly see the job at hand.

### Living Spaces (Dining Rooms, Home Offices, Bedrooms, Reading Areas)

These rooms are more casual than the utility spaces and don't require as much light as in the kitchen or bathroom. These are rooms where you may be relaxing or need to be less energetic. Bright, white light is more of an "awake" light, but it's not ideal when you're just chilling out (or even working behind a computer screen in a home office).

You want bulbs in the 2,000–6,000 lumen range that give off softer, warmer light around 2,700 kelvins. This type of light is just as the naming suggests — warmer. It gives the room a more inviting feeling. It's easier on the eyes and looks more natural in these types of rooms. In the home office, warmer light helps balance the light emitted by monitors, which can be harder on the eyes. Softer, warmer light reduces eye strain. This is also why it's ideal for reading areas!

## Testimonials

"Not only am I satisfied, but I am also very, very impressed with their professionalism and their diligence on my claim. Phenomenal people like Daniel Hernandez and his staff were on point from the beginning to the end, polite and understanding. It's amazing to find that people of this caliber still exist."

—Alessi Q.

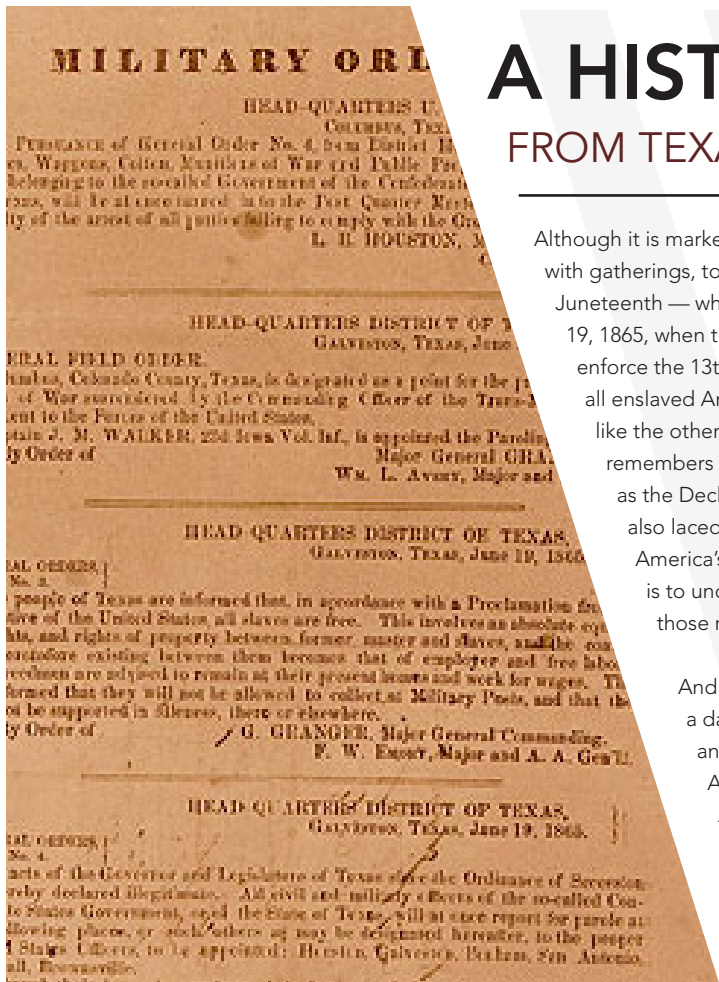
"I had a great experience with The Whisler Law Firm. I found Josh Whisler to be very thorough and honest. While I have no doubt that he has many cases on his table, his firm made me feel as though mine was always a priority, updating me on a regular basis with every detail as to the status of my case. I highly recommend the firm. They were a true pleasure to work with."

—Ben S.

"Josh fought for us and got a great settlement from our insurance company. He and his staff are thorough, knowledgeable, and easy to work with. I hope you never need to file an insurance claim, but if you do, I highly recommend The Whisler Law Firm."

—Rochel B.





# A HISTORY OF JUNETEENTH

## FROM TEXAS, THIS DAY WENT TRANSCONTINENTAL

Although it is marked across the United States with gatherings, toasts, celebration, and song, Juneteenth — which commemorates June 19, 1865, when the Union military began to enforce the 13th Amendment which liberated all enslaved Americans — is not a holiday like the others. Although the history it remembers is in its own way as triumphant as the Declaration of Independence, it is also laced with trauma and pain. To call America’s relationship with slavery ugly is to understate it; any holiday with those roots is going to be heavy.

And yet Juneteenth is ultimately a day of celebration and hope, and its history reflects that. African Americans and Black Americans have gathered on this day for over a hundred years. It started in Galveston and other areas of Texas, and early gatherings were also used to teach local

people how to vote and the laws surrounding the process. Today, we’d call the subsequent growth of this holiday a grassroots movement.

The movement, at times, slowed down or stalled, especially during the Depression and the worst atrocities of the Jim Crow era. Ironically, another hurdle on the road to widespread national awareness (and perhaps adoption) was the civil rights movement itself, which refocused the energies of African Americans on specific, achievable political and social goals.

Just as the holiday began in Texas and celebrated a day specific to that state’s history, Texas would also boost it into national recognition with official acknowledgment in the late 1970s. Other states followed suit, and the traditional brunches and prayer breakfasts can now be found throughout the country. It seems like Juneteenth will continue to grow, which means you might want to circle June 19 on future calendars. Local celebrations abound, and a federal holiday in the vein of Indigenous Peoples’ Day may well be in the cards in the next decade.

## Iced Green Tea, 2 Ways

Inspired by 101Cookbooks.com



Nothing says summer like a glass of iced tea. Enjoy these two twists on a classic summer soother.

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbsp loose-leaf green tea
- 4 cups filtered water, divided

#### Option 1: Rose and Coriander

- 1 tbsp dried rose petals
- 1 tbsp whole coriander seeds

#### Option 2: Ginger Mint

- 1 handful fresh mint leaves
- 1 inch fresh ginger, cut into coins

### DIRECTIONS

For Rose and Coriander Tea:

1. In a large pitcher, place green tea, rose petals, and coriander seeds.
2. Bring 1/2 cup water to just below boiling.
3. Pour hot water over tea leaves, petals, and seeds. Let steep for 10 seconds, then add the remaining 3 1/2 cups water.
4. Refrigerate 4–8 hours until tea reaches your desired strength. Strain and serve over ice.

For Ginger Mint Tea:

Follow the instructions above, substituting the mint leaves and ginger coins for the rose petals and coriander seeds.

## DID YOU KNOW?

You can visit [WhislerLawFirm.com](http://WhislerLawFirm.com) and access our highly informative webinars any time!

Also, sign up for a complimentary Will or Trust consultation!

Questions?

Call 833-529-5677

“The summer night is like a perfection of thought.”  
– Wallace Stevens



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We're so grateful for all the feedback on our newsletter! If you have anything you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Sometimes, It Pays to Be Put on Hold
- 2 Lightbulb Primer: Choosing the Right Bulb for the Right Job
- 2 Testimonials
- 3 A History of Juneteenth
- 3 Iced Green Tea, 2 Ways
- 4 4 Summer Blockbusters for the Whole Family



# 4 SUMMER BLOCKBUSTERS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

## Don't Miss These Flicks!



Summer is back, and, thanks to the COVID-19 vaccine rollout, so are movies! This June and July, a host of family films will hit theaters and streaming services. Here are four to put on your must-watch list.

### 'Vivo' — Friday, June 4 (Theaters)

If you loved "Hamilton" and your kids enjoyed the live-action "Mary Poppins," don't miss "Vivo"! This film tells the story of a musical Capuchin monkey who makes the journey from Cuba to Miami, Florida, to see his name in lights. It's all about friendship and adventure and is the first-ever musical from Sony Pictures. It also features original songs from the "Hamilton" writer and star from "Mary Poppins," Lin-Manuel Miranda.

### 'Luca' — Friday, June 18 (Disney+)

"Luca" will transport you to two places: a beach town in Italy and a world where magical sea monsters walk the land! This beautifully animated film tells the coming-of-age story of a young boy with a monstrous secret who just wants to eat gelato and ride scooters with his friends. The heartwarming film is a Disney and Pixar collaboration and will premiere on Disney+ on June 18 without an additional fee for subscribers.

### 'Cinderella' — Friday, July 16 (Theaters)

We've already had live-action versions of "The Jungle Book," "The Lion King," and "Beauty and the Beast," but now, Disney is at it again! The latest live-action version of "Cinderella" is a musical rom-com starring Camila Cabello, Idina Menzel, Pierce Brosnan, and John Mulaney, among others.

### 'Jungle Cruise' — Friday, July 30 (Theaters)

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and Emily Blunt will join forces this summer in "Jungle Cruise," a live-action Disney adventure flick. The movie follows a researcher named Dr. Lily Houghton as she travels down the Amazon river to hunt for a tree that has healing powers. Skipper Frank Wolff is her guide, but before long, things get sketchy and, as Disney puts it, "their fate — and mankind's — hangs in the balance."

These release dates are subject to change due to COVID-19 and may be delayed or moved to streaming services. If one of the movies sticks out to you, check online for updates!