



FEBRUARY 2016

# Tarpon Springs Police Department

*Building a Better Future Through Excellence in Policing*

## Crimewatch Newsletter



### Designate a Driver this St Paddy's Day

If you drink alcohol and drive you dramatically increase your chance of being in a crash. In addition, if you are pulled over and the officer asks you to take a blood, urine or breath test you are required to comply. Florida has the "Implied Consent Law". When you sign your drivers license you have agreed to take these tests upon request. Refusal to take any of the tests will result in an immediate suspension of your drivers license for one year. A second refusal will result in an 18 month suspension.

(get a taxi, get Uber, get a non drinking friend if you do not want to go through the following penalties and go to jail)

#### Zero Tolerance for Drivers under 21

Florida has a Zero Tolerance law for drivers under 21. This means that any driver under 21 that is stopped by law enforcement and has a blood alcohol level of .02 or higher will automatically have their Florida drivers license suspended for 6 months. The .02 limit really means that you cannot have a single drink and drive. And that's the idea.

For drivers over 21 the legal limit in Florida is .08. Regardless of your age be aware that drinking and driving is considered a serious offense. Below we have summarized the penalties in the state of Florida for a first offense DUI, but the average cost including legal defense, fines, and auto insurance increases is \$8000.

#### Florida Penalties for DUI First Conviction

Fine - \$250 to \$500

Community Service - 50 Hours

Probation - Not more than 1 Year

Imprisonment - Not more than 6 Months

Imprisonment with BAL of .08 or higher with a minor in the vehicle, not more than 9 months

License Revocation - Minimum of 180 days

DUI School - 12 Hours

#### Additional DUI Convictions

The penalties listed above are for a first DUI conviction. With each additional DUI conviction the penalties in Florida are more severe. Complete details on Florida DUI penalties can be found in the Florida drivers manual.



Spring Break

**SPRING BREAK**

**MARCH 21-25**

**BE CAREFUL OF KIDS OUT  
PLAYING AND BIKING.**

**Pg 2 Pill Mills**

**Pg 3 Fl Statute animal cruelty**

**Pg 4 Things to do**

**Continued prayers for  
SGT Brockew.**

**Mustache strong!!**

# PILL MILL INITIATIVE

## What are Pill Mills?

A "pill mill" is a doctor's office, clinic, or health care facility that routinely conspires in the prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances outside the scope of the prevailing standards of medical practice in the community or violates the laws of the state of Florida regarding the prescribing or dispensing of controlled prescription drugs.

## Issue

In 2010, Florida led the nation in diverted prescription drugs, resulting in seven Floridians dying every day and countless others throughout the nation. Our state had become the destination for distributors and abusers through the proliferation of pill mills.

While legitimate pain-management clinics do exist to serve those with chronic pain or terminal illness, other unscrupulous clinics, called pill mills, merely serve as drug traffickers. Common characteristics of pill mills include: cash-only/no insurance; no appointments; armed guards; little or no medical records; grossly inadequate physical examinations; and large prescription doses of narcotics that exceed the boundaries of acceptable medical care.

## The Facts

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has declared prescription drug abuse an epidemic in America.

Florida was the epicenter of prescription drug diversion because – until recently – our state had weak regulatory oversight of pain management practices, limited oversight of physician dispensing habits, and no statewide Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP).

In 2010, pharmaceutical drug diversion meant an average of seven Floridians dying a day due to prescription drug overdoses.

In 2010, there were more than 900 registered pain management clinics in Florida, but as of January 2014, there were 367 registered pain management clinics in Florida.

Florida's dubious distinction as the 'epicenter' of the nation's 'pill mill' epidemic was solidified in 2010 when DEA's Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System (ARCOS) reported that 98 of the top 100 oxycodone dispensing physicians in the nation were located in Florida. Today, none of the top 100 dispensing physicians reside in Florida.

## 2011 Anti-Pill Mill Bill

Attorney General Bondi worked with the Florida Legislature to pass legislation cracking down on Florida's pill mills.

**FLORIDA STATUTE 828 ANIMAL CRUELTY****ANIMALS: CRUELTY; SALES; ANIMAL ENTERPRISE PROTECTION**

828.12 Cruelty to animals.—(1) A person who unnecessarily overloads, overdrives, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance or shelter, or unnecessarily mutilates, or kills any animal, or causes the same to be done, or carries in or upon any vehicle, or otherwise, any animal in a cruel or inhumane manner, commits animal cruelty, a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both.(2) A person who intentionally commits an act to any animal, or a person who owns or has the custody or control of any animal and fails to act, which results in the cruel death, or excessive or repeated infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering, or causes the same to be done, commits aggravated animal cruelty, a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.(a) A person convicted of a violation of this subsection, where the finder of fact determines that the violation includes the knowing and intentional torture or torment of an animal that injures, mutilates, or kills the animal, shall be ordered to pay a minimum mandatory fine of \$2,500 and undergo psychological counseling or complete an anger management treatment program.(b) A person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of this subsection shall be required to pay a minimum mandatory fine of \$5,000 and serve a minimum mandatory period of incarceration of 6 months. In addition, the person shall be released only upon expiration of sentence, is not eligible for parole, control release, or any form of early release, and must serve 100 percent of the court-imposed sentence. Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for purposes of this subsection.(3) A person who commits multiple acts of animal cruelty or aggravated animal cruelty against an animal may be charged with a separate offense for each such act. A person who commits animal cruelty or aggravated animal cruelty against more than one animal may be charged with a separate offense for each animal such cruelty was committed upon.(4) A veterinarian licensed to practice in the state shall be held harmless from either criminal or civil liability for any decisions made or services rendered under the provisions of this section.

Lately the news is inundated with abused animals. You will be charged if you are turned in. Below is Skye my own pet that was very abused and abandoned. My wife and I adopted her she's a happy pup now.



## Things to do in Tarpon Springs !

Time to get outside Tarpon Springs has many beautiful parks to enjoy.

Fred Howard Park and Beach: 1700 Sunset Dr. Picnic area's, playground and trails.

Anderson Park : 39699 US 19. Dog park, Boat ramp and trails.

Craig Park :Tennis, playground, raquetball wall and manatee sightings.

Tarpon Springs Splash Park: 107 Athenian Way  
(next to Splash park is a dog park)

For evenings indoors go to [TarponArts.org](http://TarponArts.org) for many awesome shows.  
Children's programs available too.

We are proud to announce,  
on February 23, 2016 the Tarpon Springs Police Department was awarded another three-year accreditation term by the Commission for Florida Accreditation.



### TARPON SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT

444 South Huey Avenue  
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689

Emergency: 911  
Non-Emergency: 727-938-2849  
Crime Prevention: 727-937-8753

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