



AN IMPORTANT NOTICE TO FLORIDA VISITORS

FLORIDA'S SHOOT FIRST LAW TOOK EFFECT OCTOBER 1

The "Shoot First" law is a new law in Florida that police, prosecuting attorneys and gun violence prevention advocates worry may lead to the reckless use of guns on the streets of Florida cities. Before the law was passed, Floridians could carry concealed guns in public places, but they could only use those guns as a last resort when safe avoidance of injury was otherwise not possible. The new law eliminates the duty to avoid the threat and, instead, allows the gun user to "shoot first" to eliminate the threat.

It is not difficult to imagine likely situations in which individuals may use lethal force where they did not before. An argument on the highway, or a disagreement in a restaurant or nightclub, or a dispute over belongings in a public place such as a beach could lead to unnecessary use of force.

The Florida "Shoot First" law was passed over the strong objections of law enforcement officials and prosecutors.

Here is what some published news reports have said:

- The Atlanta Journal Constitution wrote "Florida has ignored common sense and public safety by adopting a law that encourages violent confrontations between its residents."
- Time Magazine columnist Michelle Cottle wrote "I'm perturbed by the Florida legislature's decision to pass a bill, signed into law by Governor Jeb Bush last week, allowing virtually anyone who feels threatened at any time and in any place to whip out a gun and open fire."
- Detroit Free Press columnist Nicole Christian wrote "You have to wonder whether the Florida Legislature has lost its mind... What a nightmare Florida could have on its hands after empowering victims of road rage, robbery or domestic disputes to make instant life-and-death decisions."

PLEASE TAKE SENSIBLE PRECAUTIONS

- **Do not argue unnecessarily with local people.**
- If you are involved in a traffic accident or near-miss, remain in your car and keep your hands in plain sight.
- If someone appears to be angry with you, maintain to the best of your ability a positive attitude, and do not shout or make threatening gestures.

We want your visit to be safe and positive. Please remember that each of us has a great deal of ability to prevent angry confrontations.

For more information, visit
www.shootfirstlaw.org