



Horses Without Carriages International™
global support for a ban on horse-drawn carriages

Horse and Carriage Lawsuit Settled

7/23/09 - ST. AUGUSTINE, FL -- A quiet carriage ride through St. Augustine turned upside down for the McFaul couple in 2002. On Castillo Drive, near the fort, a horse-drawn carriage veered into the path of a car. According to the police report, the **car crashed into the back of the carriage**. The police report says the car's driver had a very high blood alcohol level. Charles Sorenson is the McFaul's attorney. He said, "*The drunk driver was trying to pass the horse. Unfortunately at the same time the horse veered into her lane.*" The carriage seat the McFaul's were sitting on fell over backwards. "It threw them backwards out of the carriage. **Mrs. McFaul landed on her head, causing very bad neck injuries,**" Sorenson explained. He said Ms. McFaul had two neck surgeries due the accident. The McFaul's sued the Gamsey Carriage Company, the carriage driver, and the driver of the car. The case was just settled out of court. The amount is confidential. The case is an example of how areas like St. Augustine have road-sharing issues, and they have for years. "If you go back in the law when horseless carriages first appeared, the horseless carriages were made to wait until horse and carriages pass them," Sorenson explained. "So carriages had the right of way." Now, carriages and cars must share the road equally.