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**Sunshine State Seeing Yellow Thanks To Lemon Laws**

**By Earl Powers**

When people think of Florida, they think of the Sunshine State and their top agriculture product –

oranges. However, it is the lemon law Florida enforces that makes vehicle owners see yellow. Lemon law attorneys are almost as abundant as the orange crop in Florida, so just remember them when you decide to seek any legal counsel. However, you can research your basic car lemon law just by browsing the internet or reading below for the highlights on your rights as a consumer when it comes to owning a car lemon.

The late 1980's saw a new lemon law that holds car makers accountable, by particular situations of course, for refunding the purchaser's money or exchanging the problem vehicle with a new, comparable model. This law does not cover a used car lemon nor does it provide coverage for ATV vehicles, motorcycles, dirt bikes, motorized scooters or large trucks with a weight of over 10,000 pounds.

This lemon law Florida has also only covers new vehicles, either bought or leased in the state. There are very few exceptions. Defective operation or a major flaw in the car has to be present which would impede the safe use of the vehicle. You have heard that beauty is in the eye of the beholder? Well, the same goes when judging whether or not your vehicle has a legitimate defect.

The owner of the car has to have had wasted a lot of time taking the vehicle into the dealership or certified service provider, losing family time and possibly loss of wages due to missed work. Ok, so the lemon laws do not exactly say that, but that is the reality of it right? Technically, you had to have taken the vehicle in at least three occasions for identical problems or have had the car out of commission for fifteen straight days due to the flaw or defect.

Here is where it starts getting irritating. After all this time and aggravation of taking your vehicle in without the problems being fixed, THEN you have to fill out a form from the lemon law Florida handbook. You can state your grievances on there and describe your vehicle problems. The next step is mailing it straight to the manufacturer via certified or receipt mail and waiting for a response. (All this hassle almost makes you want to make lemonade with that car lemon, doesn't it?)

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The manufacturer has ten days to pony up a response to your grievance. If you do not hear from them, then their rights are waived. Usually though, you will hear back from the manufacturer where they will direct you to yet another authorized service provider for another inspection of the alleged car lemon. Sounds like a lot of fun!

If you get disgusted with the entire process, do a search on the internet or ask around for some reputable lemon law lawyers that can fight the battle for you. Just be sure to keep track of all your repair receipts, any rental car fees due to your vehicle being out of commission and any other warranty work. Documentation is important to following any car lemon law. Good luck in your quest. Let's hope that you will soon start seeing green, the color of money instead of car lemon yellow!

Earl Powers, US Lawyer and State Lemon Laws expert at Aquest Group LLC (

<http://www.state-lemon-laws-explained.com>

) publishes other articles related to State Lemon Laws at

<http://www.used-car-lemon-laws.com>

and

<http://www.lemon-law-attorney.com>

### **Understanding The Lemon Law**

#### **By Stephen Kreutzer**

Lemon laws were designed to protect the consumer. Buying a vehicle is one of the major purchases a person can make and having protection against a bad deal is important. Lemon laws differ from state to state, but the basics of the law are standard throughout the United States.

The lemon law gives consumers a basic definition of what considers a vehicle to be a lemon. It also states the manufacturer is responsible for problems and goes on to define how matters should be handled when a lemon is in question. The lemon laws sets up a warranty period that is usually between 12 and 24 months. It also specifies how many attempts must be made to correct the defect before a refund or replacement is ordered. Most often serious defects that would affect the safety and security of passengers is allowed one attempt to correct. Other lesser concerns usually are allowed three attempts. When the refund is given there are dedications for use of the vehicle. This usually correlates with the number of miles on the vehicle. Not every situation qualifies under the lemon law, so checking state regulations is important before attempting to use the law.

Once you know your situation qualifies under the lemon law there are some steps to take. Repairs are an important part of the lemon law, as stated above, there are a certain number of attempts allowed to try to repair the defect. It is important that you keep good repair records to prove the attempts have

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been made. After repairs have been attempted you have to notify the manufacturer about what is happening. You should then be set up to get the refund or replacement. Sometimes the manufacturer will disagree and you may have to go to court to resolve the matter.

Lemon laws are a way to make manufacturers responsible for the vehicles they make. When a person buys a vehicle they expect to be able to drive it and use it, not be stuck with major problems. Fortunately more often than not major defects are caught as soon as the vehicle is on the market and the manufacturer steps up to replace them. However, if this doesn't happen then your state's lemon laws are there to look out for your rights.

Stephen Kreutzer is a freelance publisher based in Cupertino, California. He publishes articles and reports in various ezines and provides information on lemon laws at Lemon Law Facts.

<http://www.lemonlawfacts.info>



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