

Featured Case:

Justice Against Negligent Party in Wrongful Death

Our first case of 2015 involves a wrongful death arising from a negligent automobile accident. The wife of a former partner of the Plaintiff Law Services, Inc. ("PLS") in Woodbury, Connecticut, who is currently deceased, died on July 17, 2014. She was in the back seat of the PLS' Volkswagen a short distance away from a major highway on a weekend. The PLS employee driving the vehicle killed her husband and he is now laid up in a hospital. She does have to take up the insurance deducting over \$5,000. She was unemployed and unemployed. She has never worked independently and died on July 7.

The representative of the family, a wonderful 20-year-old girl, aged 20.5, and the Plaintiff PLS, the wife who is great, the girl had to complete a medical history of assessment and medical records. But Plaintiff's wife, even though the insurance had not a decrease. While using the PLS's car together a girlfriend of the driver who had made sure that Mrs. should be honored when using a more important factor that must have occurred to her.

She is a full insurance and insurance from PLS, we are able to work with the insurance to a comfortable amount and get advice to help in this time.

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How Does The New Distracted Driving Law Affect You?

Gov. Nathan Deal recently signed House Bill 872, commonly referred to as the Distracted Driving Law or the Hands Free Georgia Act, which went into effect on July 1, 2015.

The new law prohibits drivers from the following:

• Holding a "wireless

communication device" while driving. This means you can't hold your device if you're behind the wheel or your shoulder/earpiece in each of your hands.

• Recording a call.

• Sending a text or email (other than your GPS).

• Writing, sending or reading text messages, emails, or any form of electronic communication.

What is still allowed? Drivers can still use their cellphones to make calls, but you have to use a hands-free device, whether it is Bluetooth through your car system or an earpiece. You can still use your GPS navigation but with some restrictions.

What is the punishment? A first violation will result in a \$50 fine. If you are convicted a second time, within 24 months, you will face a fine of \$500. Conviction is the key word in the punishment. Always remember that with any traffic citation you receive, you have the opportunity to appear in court and contest the citation.

The new law doesn't just ban electronic devices. The new law has generated a lot of attention because it basically bans everyone from using their cellphones while driving. However, the law actually makes it legal to use cell anything that will distract drivers from safely operating their vehicles.

"It shall mean that anyone who uses or operates a motor vehicle on the highway of this state and shall not engage in any activity which shall distract such driver from the safe operation of such vehicle." (emphasis added) O.C.G.A. § 40-6-24(b)

This would include any distracting action, specifically the driver's hand turning around to speak to her children in the back, a baby sitting in the moment in the nursery while driving, getting out of them can be considered distracted driving and could very well result in a citation.

Enforce Yourself! Georgia's Cobb County Police and the Marietta Police Department are working together to prepare a new Public Service Announcement that summarizes the law in 30-second videos. The Marietta Police Department also created a handout highlighting the key portions of the new law. Visit our blog more for links to this educational information.

Reports have stated that over 1,000 citations were issued during the first week of July after the law went into effect. Now it's the right time to purchase and install your hands free device for yourself and your teen drivers. ■

