



Corradino & Papa, LLC

A Personal Injury Law Firm

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Your Biggest Accident Could Be Your Choice of Attorney

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A DEADLY MIX OF DISTRACTIONS ON THE ROAD – texting while driving



According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, distracted driving can be broken down into three main types of distraction – **visual** (in which you take your eyes off the road), **manual** (in which you take your hands off the wheel), and **cognitive** (in which you take your mind off what you are doing).

While any type of distraction while you are driving can be dangerous, what makes driving while texting especially problematic is that it involves all three main types of distractions.

Statistics show that around 20 percent of all crashes involve some type of distraction, and in 2008, nearly 6,000 people were killed in collisions involving a distracted driver.

And even though many states have banned or are considering bans on texting while driving, it is up to drivers themselves to use common sense. When you're behind the wheel, put the phone down entirely, or if you absolutely have to send a text, pull over to a safe area on the side of the road or into a parking lot.

If you or a family member has been injured in an accident caused by a distracted driver, you should contact an experienced personal injury attorney. ■



did you know?

According to the magazine *Consumer Reports*, more people end up in the ER for head injuries from cycling than from any other sport. In fact, cycling causes twice as many head injuries as football and three and a half times more than soccer. Bottom line – you’ve got to wear a helmet when jumping on your bike to go for a ride. Studies indicate that a quality helmet can reduce your risk of sustaining a traumatic brain injury by nearly 70 percent. ■



when safeguards go bad

Although on standby to protect drivers and other passengers in the event of a crash—and they do an excellent job—airbags are occasionally the source of injuries. A flurry of activity occurs when an airbag is deployed. A head-on or near head-on impact of 10–15 mph should prompt a crash sensor to trigger an igniter, producing either argon or nitrogen gas to fill the airbag, which is composed of light fabric. The airbag deploys in 1/20th of a second, bursting forth from the steering wheel or dashboard at over 100 mph to cushion the blow.

In the midst of this explosive action are chemicals, dust, heat, and an abundance of force—in obviously close proximity to your body. The speed at which an airbag deploys can cause abrasions, burns, and facial injuries. Chemicals and dust released can spur irritation or injury to the lungs, eyes, and skin. Chest wall injuries are a distinct possibility. Spinal injuries to the neck or back due to whiplash-type effects may occur. Symptoms may be evident immediately, or may take days or even weeks to manifest.

In some situations, a faulty crash sensor might not trigger the deployment of an airbag, trigger it too late, or trigger it when there was no impact. In these cases, if you’ve been injured you may have cause to file a personal injury claim against the automobile manufacturer or airbag manufacturer. Evidence must be preserved, and negligence must be proven. ■

A massive recall of 34 million vehicles was recently announced because of concerns about airbags exploding violently and sending pieces of metal into the cabin. The airbags in question were produced by the Japanese company Takata. For information on the recall, and to see if your vehicle is included, go to safercar.gov.

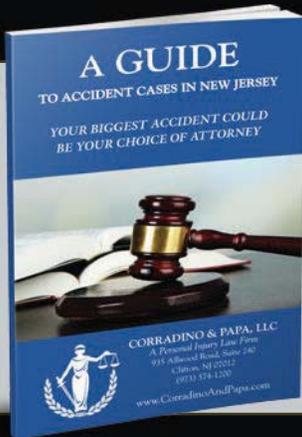


no one likes rejection

If you have applied for Social Security Disability (SSD) benefits, be forewarned that roughly 65 percent of applicants are denied initially. Here are some key reasons why:

- The limit for monthly work income for a disabled person is currently \$1,090 (\$1,820 if you are blind). If you exceed this limit, you're not eligible.
- Your impairment must cause severe limitations to your ability to work and be expected to last at least 12 months or result in your death.
- The Social Security Administration (SSA) must be able to contact you regarding your application or other matters. Make sure you are accessible.
- If you fail to release your medical records, or the SSA asks you to undergo a "consultative examination" conducted by an SSA doctor—e.g., you don't have a regular physician or your medical records may be incomplete—and you refuse, your application will be dismissed.
- Failing to carry out prescribed therapies ordered by your doctor can cost you, although there are a few legitimate exceptions.
- SSD benefits will be denied if alcoholism, drug addiction, or self-inflicted abuse is a contributing factor to your disability.
- If your disability arose while committing a crime, you will not be eligible for SSD benefits. If you were injured while in prison, you may be eligible for benefits *after your release*.
- If fraud and/or dishonesty is discovered on your application, well...need we say more?

If you are applying for SSD benefits, or you've already had your initial application rejected (there is an appeals process), contact a Social Security Disability attorney to protect your rights. ■



COMING SOON!

Get Jack Corradino and Robert Papa's *New Ultimate Guide to Accident Cases in NJ*, written by Jack and RC. It will explain "Why your biggest accident could be your choice of attorney", and what to do in the event you are injured.

Quote of the Month: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." –Mark Twain

This publication is intended to educate the general public about personal injury, medical malpractice, and other issues. It is for information purposes only and is not intended to be legal advice. Prior to acting on any information contained here, you should seek and retain competent counsel. The information in this newsletter may be freely copied and distributed as long as the newsletter is copied in its entirety.

red, white and blue strawberry shortcake

INGREDIENTS

- 1 (18.25 ounce) package yellow cake mix
- 1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 pint blueberries, rinsed and drained
- 2 pints fresh strawberries, rinsed and sliced

DIRECTIONS

1. Prepare cake according to package directions and bake in a 9x13 inch pan. Cool completely.
2. Frost cake with whipped topping. Place blueberries in a square in the corner, and arrange sliced strawberries as stripes to make an American flag. Chill until serving.

Optional – add sparklers before serving!

Courtesy: www.allrecipes.com. ■

