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BLACKBURN **ROMEY**

TRUSTED INJURY LAWYERS

JULY 2025



Blackburn Romey attorneys (from left): Frank Wolford, Ryan Lindinger, Tom Blackburn, Chad Romey, Christopher Blackburn and David Singleton.



Don Terry, Director of Operations at Community Harvest Food Bank, and Hannah Grace, a journalist at WANE 15, load food items to deliver to Community Harvest Food Bank while Blackburn Romey employees (red shirts) continue to collect more donations from community members on July 20. Employees, from left, are Glory Keller, Israel Pernell, Lindsay Bennett, and Grace McElhoe.

BR Staff Helps WANE TV Collect 19,187 pounds of Food

For the third consecutive year, Blackburn Romey staff joined with WANE 15 to give back for Nexstar's Founder's Day of Caring. According to WANE 15, 19,187 pounds of food were donated to the Community Harvest Food Bank!

Blackburn Romey employee Alicia Johnson organized the drive and for several weeks, donations from staff and the public were collected at the Fort Wayne law office.

On June 20, the final day of the drive, WANE 15 reported that staff members at Blackburn Romey worked 10 to 12 hours in the sun accepting food donations

and then returned the following day to help shelf and organize the collected food. They saved their donation cardboard trays to give to local animal shelters for the care of kittens.

“For us, it is very important because the need is very important in our nine-county service area,” said President and CEO of Community Harvest Food Bank, Carmen Cumberland. “It’s a great thing to collaborate with other organizations so we can help our neighbors, I mean, this could be somebody living right next to you.”

To see a video of the WANE 15 broadcast, [click here.](#)

Source: Facebook WANE 15



- Blackburn Romey employees Laura Miller, Jenna McDaniel, Jill Linnemeier and Alicia Johnson helped WANE 15 news anchor Pat Hoffman (in back) at Nexstar's Founder's Day of Giving.
- Chris Blackburn, Alicia Johnson, Grace McElhoe, Jennifer Pasick and her husband, George, pose for a photo after working several hours collecting and loading food.
- BR staff members TaResa Brindel, Glory Keller and Lindsay Bennett also helped collect donations of food at WANE 15 on June 20.

- From left, Alicia Johnson, Chris Blackburn, Jordan Ernst and Jennifer Pasick stand next to pallets of green beans, corn, peanut butter, and water that Blackburn Romey donated for the WANE 15 annual food drive.

You Could be Riding This Harley in August!



You could be the winner of this year's bike giveaway — a 2025 Harley-Davidson Fat Boy motorcycle! You must register to win. The winner's name will be drawn in August. To register or to see the complete list of rules, visit the [Blackburn Romey motorcycle giveaway page](#).

Distracted Drivers Cause Thousands of Collisions

In Indianapolis and across Indiana, distracted driving is more than just a momentary lapse in attention—it's a serious issue that causes thousands of collisions each year. For those involved, the aftermath can be physically, emotionally, and financially overwhelming. At [Blackburn Romey](#), we help clients navigate the complex process of pursuing **distracted driving accident claims** and hold negligent drivers accountable under Indiana law.

What Is Distracted Driving?

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), anything that takes your attention away from driving is a distraction, and distracted driving increases the risk of a crash. It is also completely preventable because drivers should avoid multitasking behind the wheel. Distractions can be categorized into three types: visual, manual, and cognitive. Whether it's checking a GPS, texting, or eating behind the wheel, each moment of inattention increases the risk of an accident.

The most alarming type of distraction is texting because it combines all three categories—visual, manual, and cognitive. Reading or sending a text takes your eyes off the road for five seconds or more. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of a football field blindfolded. The danger this creates for surrounding drivers, passengers, and pedestrians is staggering.

Common Types of Driver Distractions

Drivers may lose focus in ways that seem harmless at first but can lead to devastating consequences. The most common forms of distraction include:

- Texting or using a smartphone
- Adjusting the radio or climate controls
- Talking to passengers
- Reaching for items inside the vehicle
- Eating, drinking, or grooming
- Reading navigation systems



Each of these behaviors can take a driver's eyes off the road, hands off the wheel, or mind off driving, and sometimes all three.

Distractions aren't always obvious either. Daydreaming, road rage, or focusing too intently on billboards can cause a driver to miss stop signs or red lights. It doesn't have to be a phone in hand—any lapse in judgment can turn into a catastrophic accident.

Laws on Distracted Driving in Indiana

Indiana has taken legal steps to address distracted driving, especially concerning the use of electronic devices behind the wheel. These laws aim to

reduce the number of preventable accidents and encourage safer driving habits.

Lawmakers have observed an increase in technology-related crashes and responded with increasingly strict penalties. While enforcement continues to evolve, the core message remains: your attention belongs on the road, not on a screen.

Indiana's Handheld Device Ban Explained

In July 2020, Indiana enacted a law that prohibits drivers from holding or using a mobile device while operating a moving vehicle, unless using hands-free or voice-operated technology. According to Indiana [Code § 9-21-8-59](#), holding or using a cellphone in-hand while the vehicle is in motion is not allowed, except to call 911 during an emergency. Violating the law can result in fines, and points may be assessed on the driver's license.

The law is clear: using handheld devices while driving is not only risky but illegal in Indiana. The intent is to reduce distractions and promote responsible driving behavior.

Legal Consequences for Distracted Drivers

When a distracted driver causes a car accident, the legal consequences can be severe. In addition to traffic citations, the at-fault party may be held financially responsible for:

- Medical bills
- Lost wages
- Property damage
- Pain and suffering

A driver found to be distracted at the time of a crash can be deemed negligent, which significantly strengthens the injured party's claim. In some cases, gross negligence may even open the door to punitive damages.



What to Do After a Distracted Driving Crash

If you've been involved in a [crash](#) and suspect the other driver was distracted, the steps you take immediately afterward can shape your legal claim. Here's what we suggest:

1. Call 911 to report the accident and request medical assistance.
2. Document the scene with photos and video, including any visible distractions (like a phone in hand).
3. Exchange information with all parties involved.
4. Speak with witnesses and get their contact details.
5. Avoid discussing fault at the scene.
6. Seek medical attention, even if injuries aren't immediately visible.
7. Consult a lawyer familiar with distracted driving accident claims in Indiana.

Many people delay medical treatment after an accident, assuming minor symptoms will fade. But some injuries take hours or even days to appear. Getting checked out immediately creates a medical record, which supports your claim and helps ensure you receive the care you need.

Proving Distracted Driving

Proving that the other driver was distracted isn't always simple. It requires gathering concrete evidence that shows their attention was elsewhere at the time of the crash.

Phone Records & Surveillance

Phone records, traffic camera footage, and witness statements can all support a claim. In some situations, it's possible to subpoena phone data to verify if a text was sent or a call was active during the collision. Additionally, nearby businesses or homes may have video recordings that captured the incident.

Witnesses often play a key role, especially if they observed the driver engaging in a distracting behavior like eating or texting.

Are You Entitled to Compensation?

Victims of distracted driving accidents may be eligible for several types of compensation. These include:

- Medical expenses for immediate and ongoing care
- Rehabilitation and therapy costs
- Lost income and future earnings
- Vehicle repair or replacement

- Pain, suffering, and emotional distress

The amount of compensation depends on the details of your case, such as the severity of injuries, impact on daily life, and evidence of the other driver's negligence. Having strong documentation and legal support makes a huge difference when pursuing full compensation.

Why Work with Blackburn Romey?

Recovering from a crash caused by a distracted driver is never easy.

Between the physical pain, financial stress, and unanswered questions, it's easy to feel lost. That's where we come in.

Our legal team at **Blackburn Romey** works directly with clients in Indiana to build powerful **distracted driving accident claims** that highlight the facts, protect their rights, and pursue the compensation they deserve. We examine the evidence, uncover what happened, and take action against careless drivers. Contact us today at [**\(260\) 422-4400**](tel:2604224400).



Got Questions?

We have the answers

- What is truck driver fatigue & how to prevent it
- It wasn't my fault! Should I get a lawyer?
- What happens if someone else is driving my car and gets in an accident?
- Why are there more car accidents in the summer?



Google Reviews

Blackburn & Romey was caring, professional and explained in detail what to expect during the process.

Barb Smith, Paralegal, was exceptional and always had a smile on her face. She lifted my spirits and always made me feel better in a stressful situation.

Barb is the best!!

Ryan Lindinger was my attorney. He worked as quickly as possible to settle my case. He was kind and helpful. Thank you.

—Teri Miller



NoxButcher

1 review

★★★★★ a year ago

OK, so I was riding in a vehicle and a motorist in front of us hit a chunk of concrete. The concrete was split up into the air and towards our vehicle. I saw it coming and and blocked my head with my arm. The chunk came through the windshield and hit my arm. My arm was broken. Blackburn and Romey pursued the other vehicles insurance company and was able to clam enough money for me to get my life back to where I was a the time of the incident, and then some. Absolutely use Blackburn Romey if you were wrongfully hurt while trying to make it through your every day life. I will absolutely call them if I ever need a lawyer in my corner again. Thanks Frank (Wolferd) & Sarah.



BLACKBURN **ROMEY**

TRUSTED INJURY LAWYERS

Talk to one of our attorneys today!
Free initial consultation
Fee based upon recovery

Call 833-FOR-HELP

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1st Place – Best Online Newsletter
Woman's Press Club of Indiana

2nd Place – Best Online Digital Newsletter
National Federation of Press Women