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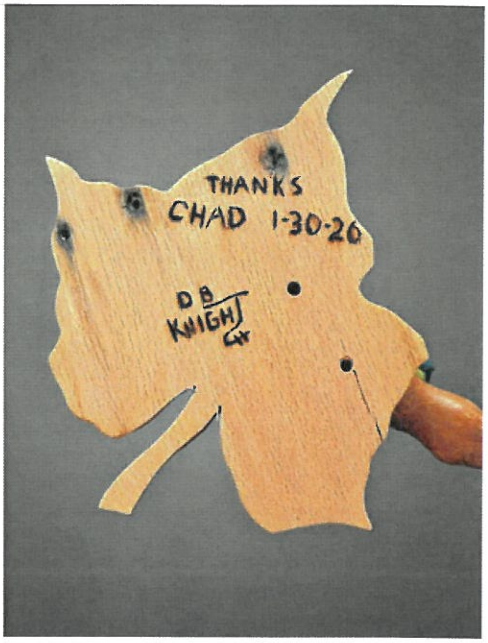
TRUSTED INJURY LAWYERS

JUNE 2026



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





Justice Earned: Gratitude Carved in Wood

Danny Knight was in the Blackburn Romey office with his attorney, Chad Romey, who was wrapping up Knight's personal injury case, when Knight noticed some pictures on Romey's wall that showed the lawyer's affinity for birds.

Knight, a Vietnam veteran, has been an avid wood carver since 1984. He later returned to Romey's office with a thank-you gift: An intricate carving of a bird. Romey was impressed.

"The bird is a nuthatch made from bass wood," Romey said. "The tree branch he is sitting on was made from driftwood, and the leaf-shaped base was made from a packing crate."

Knight started carving over 40 years ago with a piece of wood and a box cutter. Through the years, he sold his carvings — eagles, fish, golfers, birds, and more — at two large annual craft shows in Fort Wayne. Among the carvings are several bald eagles, including some with wing spans of 36 inches.

But he lost his opportunity to market his craft when he was diagnosed with Agent Orange-induced cancer and had to undergo treatment.

"I lost my place at the craft shows, and it is hard to get back in," Knight said.

Not long after that, he was injured in an automobile accident in Fort Wayne on West Jefferson Blvd. near Covington Plaza.

"The insurance company offered a settlement on the car, but I didn't think that it was fair," Knight said. "The accident had changed (the quality of) my life. That's when I contacted Blackburn Romey."

From the start, Knight was impressed with Blackburn Romey.

"Everyone, from the moment I walked through the door, from the front desk to the attorney's office, was so helpful and friendly," he said.

"And," he added, "They got me a fair settlement."

(To view some of Knight's wood carvings, text him at 260-402-5072.)



It's Time for Another Motorcycle Giveaway!

Blackburn Romey Law Firm has launched the 2026 Motorcycle Giveaway. This year's bike is a 2026 Harley Davidson Fat Boy. Register now and you may be the lucky person who is notified in August that you are the new owner of this commanding and iconic Harley.

Participants must be 18 or older and may register only once. Once registered, participants will receive an email confirmation that their entry was received. The contest closes at noon on Aug. 28.

Participants must be residents of Indiana or the neighboring states of Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio.
The drawing will be held on Aug. 29 at noon, and the winner's name will be posted on the Blackburn Romey website. The winner will also be notified by phone. The winner must claim the prize in person within thirty days of notice and is responsible for any taxes, as well as title and registration fees.

Register here!

Texas, AI, a Great Waiter and the Alamo



During a San Antonio legal marketing and AI conference, Tom and Chris Blackburn enjoyed a memorable meal—and outstanding service—at Brenner's on the River Walk. They also visited the Alamo, which, to Tom's surprise, was much smaller than he had imagined.
Pictured, from left: Tom Blackburn, Brenner's fantastic waiter, and Chris Blackburn.



Is Emotional Trauma Part of a Dog Bite Claim?

Yes, emotional trauma can be part of a dog bite claim in Indiana, though it is typically considered alongside a physical injury rather than on its own. Many people walk away from a dog attack with more than visible wounds, carrying fear, anxiety, or ongoing stress that quietly affects daily life in ways others may not immediately notice, particularly in incidents involving breeds often discussed among The 14 Most Dangerous Dog Breeds.

At **Blackburn Romey**, we often hear from individuals who feel unsettled or uneasy long after the incident, unsure whether those experiences matter legally. When asking if emotional trauma can be part of a dog bite claim, the answer depends on how the law connects those psychological effects to the incident and supporting evidence.

Emotional trauma is a valid and commonly included component of a dog bite claim and is typically classified as non-economic damages. Victims may pursue compensation for lasting psychological impacts such as PTSD, anxiety, depression, and fear of dogs, especially when those conditions require professional therapy, medical support, and clear documentation to demonstrate their effects.

Emotional Trauma as a Recognized Element of Damages

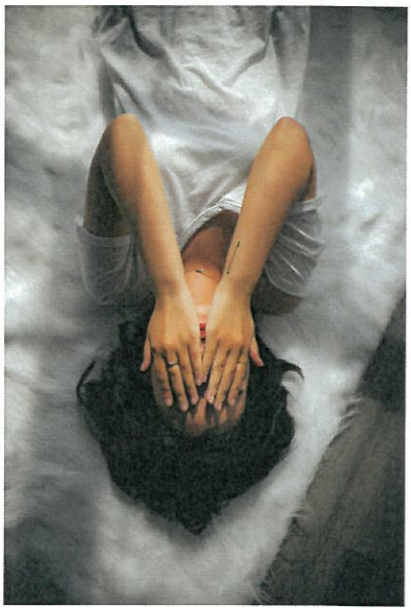
As personal injury law has developed, courts now recognize mental suffering as a real consequence of traumatic events such as dog attacks. Emotional harm

does not always show physically, yet it can significantly affect how someone functions day to day.

The concept of mental suffering is clearly defined in legal terms, where emotional distress refers to psychological suffering that may appear through anxiety, depression, or difficulty performing normal activities.

This recognition allows injured individuals to pursue compensation when psychological harm is directly connected to the incident, helping ensure the full impact of the injury is properly addressed.

Emotional Distress and Non-Economic Damages



While financial losses such as medical expenses fall under economic damages, emotional trauma is generally categorized as non-economic damages because the harm affects quality of life rather than producing a direct financial cost. Indiana law typically requires emotional distress to connect to a physical injury, meaning psychological harm forms part of the broader claim instead of standing alone.

This is often where people begin to ask, *"Can emotional trauma be part of a dog bite claim?",* especially when the emotional effects feel just as significant as the physical injuries.

Not every emotional reaction will meet the legal standard for compensation, which is why documentation and a clear connection to the injury play such an important role in these claims.

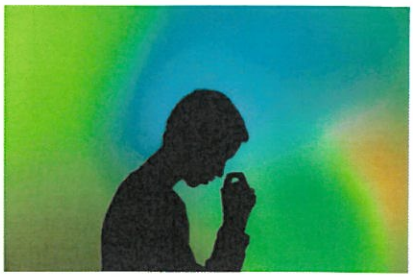
Factors That Influence Emotional Trauma Compensation

As each case develops, several elements influence how emotional harm is evaluated within a claim. These factors help show the real impact on daily life:

- **Severity of Emotional Impact:** Persistent anxiety, fear, or panic responses often carry greater weight.
- **Duration of Symptoms:** Long-term emotional effects support stronger claims than temporary distress.
- **Direct Connection to Injury:** Emotional harm must clearly relate to the dog bite incident.
- **Disruption of Daily Life:** Challenges returning to work or normal routines can influence damages.

Insurance companies and opposing parties often evaluate these factors together rather than in isolation, looking for consistency between medical records, reported symptoms, and how the injury affects daily life.

Evidence Used to Support Emotional Distress Claims



When emotional trauma is included in a claim, strong documentation is key to establishing credibility. Courts and insurers look for consistent, objective evidence rather than general descriptions, making detailed records essential.

In practice, emotional distress claims often face closer scrutiny than physical injuries because they are not immediately visible, which makes consistency across medical visits, therapy sessions, and personal accounts critical when establishing credibility.

At this stage, many individuals revisit the question, "Can emotional trauma be part of a dog bite claim?", especially when they realize how much documentation is required to support the psychological impact.

Medical Records, Psychological Evaluations, and Testimony

As emotional trauma becomes part of a legal claim, strong documentation plays a critical role in showing both the condition and its connection to the dog bite.

Mental health conditions often develop after highly stressful events such as dog attacks, and the Mayo Clinic explains that post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can include symptoms such as flashbacks, nightmares, severe anxiety, and intrusive thoughts following a traumatic experience. When medical professionals diagnose these conditions, their evaluations help establish severity and causation.

Gaps in treatment or delayed care can raise questions during a claim, which is why consistent documentation and follow-up care help reinforce the link between the incident and the emotional impact.

To support emotional distress, claims often include:

- **Medical Records:** Documentation of treatment and ongoing care
- **Psychological Evaluations:** Professional assessments linking trauma to the event
- **Expert Testimony:** Explanations of how the injury affects mental health
- **Personal and Witness Statements:** Observations showing behavioral changes

This combination of evidence helps present a consistent and credible picture of the ongoing effects on daily routines and behavior. When these pieces align, they create a clearer narrative that shows how the emotional harm developed and how it continues to affect daily life, and why it should be included as part of the overall damages.

How Emotional Trauma Interacts With Physical Injury Claims



As emotional trauma is evaluated within a claim, Indiana law generally requires a clear connection between psychological harm and physical injury, ensuring the claim reflects a unified experience rather than separating the two.

When both elements are considered together within that framework, they tend to reinforce each other in meaningful ways, since a serious bite injury can help explain ongoing fear or anxiety, while emotional trauma highlights the lasting impact of the physical harm and provides a more complete representation of the overall injury.

Protecting Your Rights in a Dog Bite Case With Guidance from Blackburn Romey

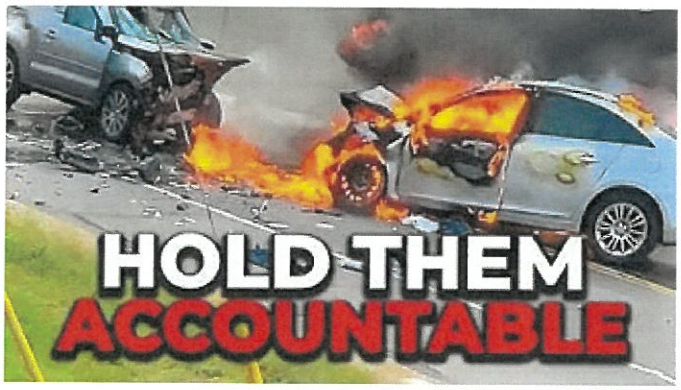
After a dog bite, questions about your rights and next steps can feel overwhelming, which is why clear guidance matters. At **Blackburn Romey**, we help individuals understand how emotional trauma can be part of a dog bite claim, how that applies to their situation and what can strengthen a case.

Our team looks at both the physical injuries and the emotional impact so your claim reflects the full extent of what you have experienced. **Call** 833-FOR-HELP to speak with our team and get straightforward answers about your next steps.

Check Out

Blackburn Romey's YouTube Channel





Lawyers Chad Romey and Chris Blackburn offer advice, guidance and answers on the Blackburn Romey YouTube channel.

Over 200 5-Star Google Reviews!



Emily Ann McKee

★★★★★ 2 years ago

This team made a painful process as enjoyable as it could be and I couldn't be more grateful 💛 I closed a chapter feeling like my voice was heard and story told. Blackburn and Romey will always have a friend in me. (I'd give them more stars if it was possible.)

Edit: I feel like I should also say that I was represented by Chris Blackburn and that man could not be a more down to earth and cool guy, and he reeeeally knows his stuff. He made me feel confident and strong, like what I had to say mattered, and he was able to explain things to me in a way that I understood. I just always felt like I was being taken care of and fought for, which is something very important when you're going through a process like this. 🫶🏻

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

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