McDougall Law Firm Addresses Impact of New Distracted Driving Act on Accident Claims

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McDougall Law Firm, LLC announces comprehensive legal guidance for South Carolina residents regarding the new Hands-Free and Distracted Driving Act, which took effect September 1, 2025. The Beaufort-based personal injury firm has prepared resources to help accident victims understand how the new legislation strengthens their legal position in distracted driving accidents.

The South Carolina Hands-Free and Distracted Driving Act prohibits the use of handheld mobile electronic devices while driving, creating enhanced penalties for violations and establishing a stronger legal foundation for personal injury claims. This legislative change comes as distracted drivers were involved in 9,067 crashes across South Carolina in the last year, with driver errors accounting for over 80% of fatal collisions statewide.

"The new hands-free law represents a significant shift in how South Carolina addresses distracted driving and provides accident victims with stronger legal protections," stated J. Olin McDougall, II, founding partner at McDougall Law Firm. "When this law takes effect, victims injured by distracted drivers will have clearer legal grounds for pursuing compensation, as violations of the statute can serve as evidence of negligence in personal injury cases."

The legislation creates specific prohibitions against handling mobile devices while operating a vehicle, with exceptions only for emergencies and certain hands-free operations. For accident victims, this means that police reports documenting hands-free violations can become crucial evidence in insurance negotiations and potential litigation. The firm emphasizes that proper documentation following an accident becomes even more critical under the new legal framework.

Accident victims who suspect distracted driving contributed to their collision should take immediate steps to protect their rights. This includes obtaining witness statements, requesting police reports that note potential device usage, and preserving any available video evidence from traffic cameras or dashcams. Insurance companies may adjust their claim evaluation processes in response to the new law, potentially affecting settlement negotiations.

The timing of legal representation also matters for those injured in crashes involving distracted drivers. Working with an experienced and knowledgeable car accident lawyer who understands the nuances of the new legislation can make a substantial difference in case outcomes. The firm notes that the enhanced penalties under the new law may influence insurance company responses to claims and the overall value of settlements.

McDougall Law Firm maintains current knowledge of all traffic law changes affecting personal injury claims in South Carolina. The firm's legal team regularly reviews legislative updates to ensure clients receive representation that reflects the most current legal standards. This commitment to staying informed about evolving traffic laws enables the firm to provide comprehensive counsel to accident victims throughout the claims process.

McDougall Law Firm, LLC specializes in personal injury cases throughout South Carolina, with particular expertise in car accidents, workers' compensation, and mass tort litigation. The firm operates on a contingency fee basis, meaning clients pay no fees unless their case results in compensation. Founded by J. Olin McDougall, II, the firm has established a reputation for thorough case preparation and aggressive representation of accident victims' rights.

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McDougall Law Firm, LLC has over 15 years of experience serving Beaufort County personal injury clients.

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