

Wade Law Office Addresses Impact of Georgia Senate Bill 68 on Wrongful Death Claims for Jonesboro Families

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Wade Law Office, a personal injury and wrongful death law firm serving Jonesboro and Clayton County, is addressing how Georgia Senate Bill 68's procedural changes affect families pursuing wrongful death claims following traffic fatalities in one of Georgia's most crash-active counties.

Clayton County recorded 12,823 traffic crashes in 2024, resulting in 46 fatalities and 340 suspected serious injuries, according to the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety, ranking it among the five most crash-active counties in the state that year. These statistics gain additional significance as Georgia Senate Bill 68, signed April 21, 2025, introduced new procedural requirements that create specific challenges for surviving families seeking compensation.

The legislation introduced a bifurcation option in bodily injury and wrongful death cases, allowing either party to request that liability and damages be tried in separate phases. This procedural tool enables defense teams

and insurers to limit what juries hear about a family's losses until after fault is already decided. Additionally, SB 68 retroactively restricts how attorneys can argue the value of non-economic damages, including loss of companionship and emotional suffering, in wrongful death trials. The law prevents specific dollar amounts from being argued before the jury except during closing arguments and requires those arguments to be rationally related to evidence.

"The combination of SB 68's bifurcation option and non-economic damage restrictions fundamentally changes how wrongful death cases proceed in Georgia courts," said Wade Law Jonesboro wrongful death lawyer. "When juries decide fault in isolation from understanding the human reality of the loss, and when attorneys face limitations in communicating what a life meant to the people left behind, families need legal representation that understands these new procedural requirements from day one. Early involvement, before the defense team shapes the liability record, has become the most critical factor in building a case that withstands this new framework."

The impact extends beyond individual cases. Metro Atlanta's five core counties, including Clayton, recorded 425 traffic fatalities in 2024, surpassing the 410 homicides recorded across the same region, according to Propel ATL's 2024 Cost of Mobility Report. Commercial trucking fatalities in Georgia reached a decade-high in a recent year, with 257 deaths accounting for 14 percent of all Georgia traffic fatalities, particularly relevant for Clayton County, which sits along I-75 and serves as a major commercial freight corridor south of Atlanta.

Georgia recorded 367,523 total traffic crashes statewide in 2024, injuring more than 143,000 people and killing 1,596, according to GDOT and GOHS data. For families facing wrongful death claims under the new SB 68 framework, understanding both the procedural rules and specific dynamics of local courts has become essential.

As a Jonesboro wrongful death lawyer, has handled wrongful death cases in the area for decades, developing familiarity with Clayton County courts and experience navigating the complexities introduced by SB 68.

Wade Law is a personal injury and wrongful death law firm based in Jonesboro, Georgia, serving clients throughout Clayton County, Fayette County, and the Metro Atlanta area. With 80 years of combined experience, the firm's attorneys handle wrongful death claims, car accidents, truck accidents, and catastrophic injury cases on a contingency fee basis.

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Wade Law Office

Wade Law Office, based in Fayetteville, GA, offers over 70 years of combined trial experience in personal injury and family law. Our dedicated team provides personalized attention to each case, ensuring clients receive the compensation they deserve.

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