



Flanagan Law Truck Accident Lawyer on Trial Team Secures \$99.9M Truck Accident Verdict

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A Fulton County jury has returned a \$99.9 million verdict in a wrongful-death commercial trucking case that grew out of a fatal head-on collision. Atlanta personal-injury firm Flanagan Law, P.C. served on the plaintiff's trial team in the case.

According to court records, the case was tried in two phases. The jury first awarded roughly \$66.25 million in compensatory damages, then added punitive damages and attorney's fees in a second phase after finding that the trucking company had engaged in serious post-crash misconduct. Together, the two awards totaled \$99.9 million. Compensatory damages of this kind are meant to cover losses such as medical and funeral expenses, lost financial support, and the value of the life that was lost. In a wrongful-death case, Georgia law leaves much of that valuation to the jury, which weighs both the measurable economic losses a family faces and the broader value of the life itself.

At the center of the punitive award was the trucking company's handling of evidence. According to a detailed

court order, the company destroyed or withheld critical evidence after the crash, including dash-camera data, the driver's hours-of-service logbooks, and the vehicle's airbag control module, the component that stores the "black box" data describing a vehicle's final moments. The court concluded the company had a duty to preserve that material and failed to meet it, and the jury decided the conduct warranted punishment on top of the compensatory award. A finding that a party destroyed or failed to preserve evidence, known as spoliation, can carry consequences beyond damages; depending on the conduct, courts may allow jurors to draw an adverse inference from the missing evidence or impose other sanctions.

Commercial trucking cases differ from ordinary car collisions, and they are typically handled by a truck accident lawyer with experience in commercial-vehicle litigation. Large carriers operate under federal safety rules that govern how long a driver may be on the road, how trucks are maintained, and how drivers are qualified and supervised. Federal regulations also require carriers to keep certain records, including electronic logging device data that tracks a driver's hours of service. These rules exist in part because a fully loaded tractor-trailer can weigh many times more than a passenger vehicle, and the consequences of a collision are correspondingly severe. Responsibility for a single crash can extend beyond the driver to the trucking company, a freight broker, a maintenance provider, or the company that loaded the cargo.

Physical and electronic evidence often proves central in these cases, and it can be lost quickly. Data is overwritten, logbooks go missing, and damaged trucks are repaired or scrapped. Modern tractor-trailers can carry several independent data systems: beyond the airbag control module, many trucks record engine and braking information through onboard electronics, and some carry forward-facing cameras, all of which can help reconstruct the seconds before a collision. Because that evidence can disappear within days of a crash, securing it often depends on early legal action. An experienced truck accident lawyer can send formal preservation demands and, when necessary, seek court orders compelling disclosure before the records are lost.

Spoliation findings of the kind entered in this case are notable because they address conduct that occurs after a crash rather than the collision itself. A verdict that separately penalizes a company for destroying evidence reflects the weight that courts and juries can place on the preservation of records in commercial-vehicle litigation.

Brendan Flanagan said, "No verdict can undo the loss a family feels when a truck crash takes someone they love. A case like this holds a company accountable and makes clear that destroying evidence has consequences."

About Flanagan Law, P.C.

Flanagan Law, P.C. is an Atlanta-based personal-injury trial firm founded in 2015 and led by attorney

Brendan Flanagan. The firm handles truck, car, bus, motorcycle and rideshare collisions, wrongful death, premises liability and catastrophic injury, and reports having recovered more than \$140 million for its clients over the course of its practice.

Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Quoted statements represent opinion, not legal conclusions.

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Flanagan Law, P.C.

Flanagan Law, P.C. is an Atlanta, Georgia personal injury trial firm representing people injured in car, truck, and motorcycle accidents and through the negligence of others.

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