



Fall 2019

OUTSIDE THE BOX



Michael W. Czack, Esq.

Being the best advocate oftentimes requires a lawyer to think “outside the box” to help a client with a complicated legal situation. We share some of these very gratifying instances with you in our Friends of the Firm Newsletter in a column we call **Outside the Box**.

A large percentage of the cases we handle involve vehicle crashes, including motorcycles, semi tractor-trailers, and passenger buses.

Normally we pursue the claim for our client directly with the at-fault driver’s insurance company. We’ll do a basic Ohio BMV driving record check and look through the court’s criminal and civil docket to get a quick snapshot of the person who caused the crash. Many times, however, it’s necessary to look elsewhere for a potential recovery to assist our injured client.

Sometimes there is reason to believe a defect or malfunction in our client’s own vehicle enhanced or worsened their injuries. In those instances, we research to see if their make and model vehicle had a recall or some other safety issue.

Occasionally, our investigation leads us to examine whether a particular road or intersection has a higher-than-normal percentage of crashes due to a hazardous road design or other anomaly. Starting with Google Earth we can immediately view the crash scene and then go to ODOT’s database, which analyzes crash statistics around the state, combining it with roadway and traffic volume information to identify safety issues, with the goal of reducing crashes.

If our client was injured in a crash with a semi tractor-trailer or large passenger bus, we can search the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s site to see if this particular company has had safety or crash issues in the past.

It’s always rewarding when our extra effort going “outside the box” leads to helpful nuggets of information that turn the case in our client’s favor.



The Czack Law Firm
Personal Injury Law Exclusively

1360 West 9th Street, Suite 300
Cleveland, OH 44113

www.CzackLaw.com

216-696-9216

mczack@czacklaw.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
and by appointment.



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We aggressively protect the rights of our clients!

Hurt on the Job—What To Do?

What Is a work-related injury? Seems obvious that work-related injuries take place at work, right? However, certain situations may make it difficult to make a valid work claim. For example, if the incident which caused the injury:

- occurred during some type of break.
- occurred during a company-sponsored event.
- occurred because of the worker’s own horseplay or misconduct.
- occurred while in a motor vehicle crash off company property.

Receiving workers’ compensation benefits is possible in any of the above situations, depending on the facts of the case. If you have a question about an on-the-job injury, call us for a free evaluation.

What are my rights if I get hurt at work? In Ohio, if you work for a company of any size, part-time or full-time, or even if you are volunteering, you likely have a claim under Ohio’s workers’ compensation statute if the injury occurred on the job. You should know and understand that:

- By law, it is your right to file a

claim with your employer when you are injured at work.

- You have the right to see a doctor of your choice for medical treatment.
- If you cannot return to work because your injury or illness prevents you from doing so, whether the condition is temporary or permanent, you may be eligible to file for a disability award.
- You have the right to appeal any adverse decision made by your employer or the State of Ohio regarding your claim.
- You have the right to have an attorney represent you during

the workers’ compensation process—in fact, it is strongly recommended.

Can you lose any of these rights? Yes! Failing to timely report a work injury can cause you to lose the opportunity to receive workers’ compensation benefits. Report a work injury to your employer as soon as possible after it happens, since Ohio has now shortened the time for filing work-related injury claims to just one year.

SCHOOL BUSES—When Am I Required To Stop?



With numerous types of road configurations, drivers may be confused as to when to stop for school buses and when they are allowed to continue driving. The law depends on the number of lanes.

On a *two-lane roadway*, drivers traveling *in both directions* must stop for school buses. By law, drivers must remain stopped until the bus is in motion again or the bus driver signals that traffic can proceed.

On a road with *four or more lanes*, drivers on the opposite side of a stopped school bus do not need to stop. *Only vehicles on the same side of the roadway are required to stop.* That law is applicable in Ohio but not in all other states. **(See diagrams below.)**

Breaking these laws can result in the driver being fined up to \$500 and having their license suspended. When in doubt, always opt for safety and wait until the bus is in motion again.



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The CZACK LAW FIRM

1360 West 9th Street, Suite 300
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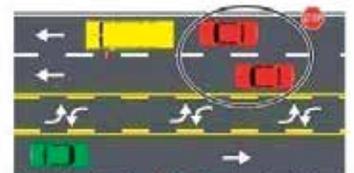
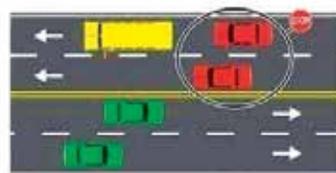
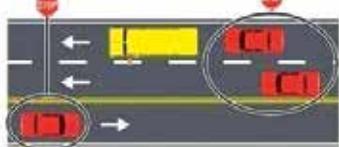
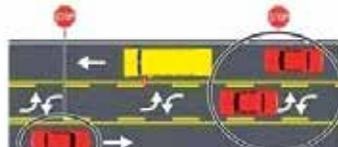
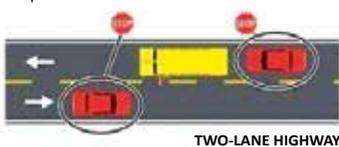
Super Lawyers



Thanks for the referrals!

When To Stop for a School Bus in Ohio

On a road with fewer than four lanes, all traffic approaching a stopped school bus from either direction must stop at least 10 feet from the front or rear of the bus and remain stopped until the bus begins to move or the bus driver signals motorists to proceed.



If the bus is stopped on a street with four or more lanes, only traffic proceeding in the same direction as the bus must stop.