

Distracted driving

RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW

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Ontario is nearly doubling fines for distracted driving.

I hate to be “that person” but I am very happy. Not because the government is getting more of our hard earned dollars, but rather because the stiffer fine is punitive. We need to discourage distracted driving in an aggressive manner. This phenomenon is becoming even more prevalent than drunk driving in today’s hi-tech era.

Just some fun facts to consider about distracted driving, according to the OPP website (opp.ca):

1. Distracted driving is estimated to be responsible for 30 to 50% of collisions.
2. This statistic is likely higher due to underreporting.
3. A police officer, using his or her discretion, can not only fine you, but

they can charge you with careless driving. Those fines range from \$400 to \$2,000 as well as a possible licence suspension and jail time.

I personally believe that most pedestrian accidents we deal with in our firm are a direct result of distracted drivers. Most of my clients say the drivers who hit them were looking down before the collision. The point is drivers are not looking at the road and people are getting hurt or killed.

Pedestrian fatalities are growing at an alarming rate. Let’s try something novel -- doing just one task at a time. Be safe! ■

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