

How Has Distracted Driving Impacted Your Life?

Distracted driving is a rampant problem that causes harm to so many on the road.

Whether an incident is minor or major, the impact can be catastrophic to the people involved. I have dealt with distracted driving in a few instances in my life, such as my precious Grandmother losing her and her friends' lives to distracted driving and being a witness myself to the consequences that can follow.

My grandmother, Helen Wade, was out with her friends one evening when the three of them got distracted laughing and talking when she failed to stop at a stop sign and ran right into the path of a diesel. Helen was a sweet and caring grandmother to her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The aftermath was something that will permanently be engraved in my mind and caused an impact on my life that will always be there. My father was very close to my grandmother, and it was torture for my family to go through such a hard time. The pair were very close, and he was devastated. The simple fact that my grandmother ignored the road reaped a sadness that will forever hold our family in a chokehold whether we have moved on or not. That distracted driving took an irreplaceable and precious life that will never be returned. My family will forever miss her, and the impact the incident left will always be present in all our hearts.

In my short eighteen years of life and three years of driving, I have been a witness to two hit and runs. The distracted driving incident impacted me because of the aftermath I saw and the repercussions the guilty faced. The first incident showed me that distracted driving is never an option, mainly because the other party possibly involved is left in a bind. They might have just gotten a new car or be strapped for money, unable to fix the damages brought to them. In the second incident I witnessed, the reckless and dangerous driver put three lives at risk, including two babies. The driver was not being safe attempting to pass someone and caused a wreck that

impacted me and will never go away. After seeing the faces of the little boy and girl being pulled from the car, I was forever changed. That wreck allowed me to see just what one mistake can cause and how it is so easy to take a life with distracted driving.

All in all, distracted driving is never the right choice, and whether a driver realizes it or not, it can create horrible scenarios that can take the lives of others. All the incidents I have witnessed or heard about have impacted me each in their own way. My grandmother and the children that were victims of distracted driving will always reside in my mind as an impactful reminder of what driving distracted can cause.