**Get the Facts: Do It For Me**

**In a Nutshell**

Minnesota and much of the nation is experiencing an epidemic of risky driving behaviors led by speed and distraction. While traffic safety and law enforcement officials try to curb these dangerous behaviors through citations and education programs, we must look closer to home for reasons to change: Our loved ones.

**Why change your behavior?**

**Excessive Speed**

**and Distraction Facts**

* *In 2022, the Minnesota State Patrol alone wrote more than 1,100 citations for speeds over​ 100 .*
* *In 2022, 129 motorists died in speed-related crashes in Minnesota, almost one-third of the 444 fatalities.*
* *More than 32,000 crashes were distracted driving-related from 2018-2022, contributing to one in 11 crashes in Minnesota.*

Risky driving behavior that results in a crash not only has lasting repercussions for the one behind the wheel, it can irreparably change the lives of family members, friends and other victims.

If your loved one asked you to cease your risky driving behavior what would you do?

**What does dangerous driving behavior really cost?**

Imagine how the consequences of speeding, distraction or other risky behaviors can impact you and your family and far beyond:

In dollars

* The average economic cost (including wage losses, medical expenses, administrative expenses, motor vehicle damage and employers’ uninsured costs) for a fatal car accident was $1.75 million and $101,000 for a disabling injury in 2020. That’s a tremendous burden for a household.
* When quality-of-life valuations are considered, the total value of societal harm from motor vehicle crashes in 2019 was nearly $1.4 trillion.

In legal impact

* In Minnesota, motorists stopped at 20 mph over the speed limit face double the fine. Those cited for driving in excess of 100 miles per hour automatically have their licenses revoked for at least six months and must pay a fine of at least $350. That’s a big inconvenience and possibly a crisis for you and your family!
* When a car accident results from an serious violation of driving rules, such as [extreme speeding](https://www.levininjuryfirm.com/how-often-is-speeding-a-factor-in-fatal-car-accidents/) or distraction, the driver will often face criminal prosecution. Some types of impairment, like fatal [drunk or drugged driving](https://www.levininjuryfirm.com/holding-drunk-drivers-responsible-for-your-injuries-2/), frequently lead to criminal charges against the driver. If found guilty, this can lead to incarceration.
* If someone dies or is seriously injured in a car accident, the victims or their surviving family members typically have the right to file a wrongful death lawsuit. Awards or settlements can be costly to the at-fault driver or, if deceased, their surviving family.

In lifestyle change and emotional impact

* If you were behind the wheel and at fault, in addition to guilt and depression for causing a death or serious injury to a loved one or a stranger, you’ll likely grapple with a long list of emotional and practical consequences for the rest of your life.
* You could lose the services your loved one provided to the family if they die or are disabled due to an accident you caused. Even if that person did not work, their loss could cause substantial financial difficulty for the family. Often, the value of services provided exceeds the value of a loved one’s income, such as for childcare, cooking, cleaning and other home tasks and much more.
* You could be left without your partner’s presence, support, and companionship. For minor children, this could mean the loss of a parent’s guidance and advice. For the spouse of the deceased, this means the loss of a partner and companion. If a child dies, you’ll never have the joy of watching them grow up.

**Do it for them**

Each time you get behind the wheel, take a moment to think about the devastating and far-reaching implications of driving at excess speeds or distraction can have on your loved ones and others. Listen for their voices even when you’re alone in your vehicle. “Slow down. Pay attention. Do it for me.”

**Sources: National Safety Council**

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**