

## ABOUT THE TRUCK SAFETY COALITION

The Truck Safety Coalition formed in 2002 when Parents Against Tired Truckers (P.A.T.T.), founded 1994, combined efforts with Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways (CRASH), founded 1991.

Working together through the Truck Safety Coalition, we are dedicated to providing compassionate support to truck crash survivors and families of truck crash victims, improving truck safety in the U.S., eliminating the unnecessary deaths and injuries caused by truck crashes every year, and educating legislators and the media on issues related to truck safety laws and regulations.



“ *We are so thankful we found this group. Soon after losing Orbie, we vowed to do whatever we could to help prevent this from happening to another family. Connecting through the Truck Safety Coalition has been a lifeline for us.* ”

Linda Wilburn, Oklahoma  
Son, Orbie, killed in a truck crash

“ *After losing Jeff and his friends and meeting so many other grieving families, we decided to create P.A.T.T. to help provide others with the grief and support services and resources we desperately needed, but did not have.* ”

Daphne Izer, Maine  
Son, Jeff, killed in a truck crash  
Founder, PATT

2014 White House Champion of Change Recipient

## THE TRUCK SAFETY COALITION

The Truck Safety Coalition holds a biennial Sorrow to Strength Conference. Families from across the nation come together to share their experience, bond together, and attend workshops on grief, truck safety issues, and advocacy. We then share our truck safety message with Members of Congress, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the media.



Please be advised that the information contained in this brochure has been compiled by volunteers of the Truck Safety Coalition, whose lives have been irrevocably changed by truck crashes, and is intended to provide you with general information that we hope will be helpful to you. It should not be considered legal or professional advice and should not be considered applicable to all circumstances.

For more information, please access

**The Truck Crash Resource Book at:  
[www.trucksafety.org/first-response](http://www.trucksafety.org/first-response)**

or call us and we will send you a hardcopy. Do you have questions or concerns? Contact us to speak with a volunteer or staff member:



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[www.trucksafety.org](http://www.trucksafety.org)

[twitter.com/TruckSafetyOrg](https://twitter.com/TruckSafetyOrg)

[Facebook.com/trucksafetycoalition](https://Facebook.com/trucksafetycoalition)

**Working Together We Can Save Lives**



## TRUCK CRASH RESOURCES

**TO ASSIST TRUCK CRASH SURVIVORS AND FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES IN A TRUCK CRASH.**

We are an international network of people who have lost loved ones in a truck crash, truck crash survivors, and their family's and friends. We volunteer our time to help new truck crash victims and their surviving families by sharing our knowledge and experiences and by advocating for truck safety improvements.

# TRUCK SAFETY COALITION

★ HELPING FAMILIES & SAVING LIVES ★  
FOR OVER 30 YEARS

## YOU ARE NOT ALONE

**WE HAVE EXPERIENCED THE GRIEF AND PAIN YOU ARE GOING THROUGH RIGHT NOW AND WE ARE HERE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH COMPASSIONATE SUPPORT AND DELIVER HELPFUL RESOURCES.**

Each year thousands of people endure the devastation that has visited you and your family. Experience has proven that the days following a truck crash are the most critical for your emotional well-being as well as the strength of your case if there are legal proceedings. Truck companies hire experienced lawyers within hours of the crash, and they begin their work immediately. Although it is incredibly difficult to consider the legal process as you grieve the loss of a loved one or deal with a serious injury, legal issues should be addressed as soon as possible. We hope that the information contained within this brochure and on our website will help you to navigate through this difficult post-crash process.

## PRACTICAL TIPS

Right now, you may feel overwhelmed with information as you are taking care of medical treatments and expenses, funeral arrangements, and more. Here are some tips to remember as you begin this process:

- ✓ Contact the investigating authority
- ✓ Collect and preserve evidence
- ✓ Hire an attorney with truck crash experience as soon as possible
- ✓ Ask a friend or relative to assist you in taking care of matters

## COPING WITH GRIEF

During the first six months to a year after the loss of a loved one or as you learn to live with serious injuries, you may be vulnerable to physical illness. You may also have difficulty sleeping or you may want to sleep all the time. Here is a list of some other responses you may experience:

- ✓ Denial
- ✓ Fear and Vulnerability
- ✓ Anger
- ✓ Guilt
- ✓ Depression



**“ There are people who will be telling you that you should be doing this, and you should be doing that. They will tell you that you should be feeling better and that you should be back on the job and be 100 percent. There are these artificial time limits that are supposed to let you know when you should be better, and you think you’re crazy if you’re not. The reality is, wherever you are, that’s okay. ”**

Dawn King, Michigan,  
Father, Bill Badger, killed in a truck crash  
Board Member, CRASH

## FINDING A GRIEF COUNSELOR

Grief can take many forms following the loss of a loved one or experiencing a serious injury. Many who have lost loved ones or survived a truck crash often say they wished they had not waited so long before seeking counseling.

The Truck Safety Coalition has volunteers across the country, and we can help you to find a grief counselor in your area. Please call us at (202) 921-9526.

**“ It was hard, but I spoke at a CRASH press conference in 1992, after my 1989 crash which took the lower third of my face. It was a very healing experience. 40+ surgeries later, I continue to volunteer and be inspired by the quality people in the TSC. ”**

Nancy Winkelman Meuleners  
Survived an underride truck crash

## COPING TIPS

Your life will never be the same after this tragedy. Learning how to manage grief involves recognizing, acknowledging, and accepting grief as a journey. It is important to keep in mind that no matter how painful and difficult, grief is a necessary path to healing.

- ✓ Get support from a professional
- ✓ Do not be afraid to talk about your loved ones, the crash, or your injuries
- ✓ Write about the experience in a journal
- ✓ Understand that everyone grieves differently
- ✓ Be patient; healing takes time

Please call the Truck Safety Coalition and we can connect you with our community of support. You can join our Facebook peer support group or connect with a volunteer one on one. We have lost loved ones or survived truck crashes ourselves, and we understand what you are going through.



## LEGAL ASPECTS

It is easy to become overwhelmed when trying to figure out the legal issues associated with a truck crash. Oftentimes the legal terms and procedural steps may make the legal process, both criminal and civil, seem unintelligible. It is important to understand the basics so you feel more at ease with the legal process, including the selection of an appropriate attorney. Below are some questions to consider before selecting an attorney:

- ✓ How many wrongful death and personal injury cases has the attorney handled?
- ✓ Will the attorney have the crash investigated immediately once retained?
- ✓ Is the attorney Board Certified in Truck Accident Law?
- ✓ Is the attorney willing to connect you with past clients with similar cases?
- ✓ Will the attorney support you in seeking justice and advocating for truck safety?

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about the legal process and finding an attorney.

## ADVOCACY

The Truck Safety Coalition advocates for improvements to truck safety laws and regulations. Throughout the years, we have worked with many survivors and family members to take action in memory of their loved ones and to help prevent other families from suffering a similar loss or injury.

When you feel you are ready, call or email us—it is that simple. No matter your experience or time commitment, you can help. Working together, we can make a difference.

**Phone: (202) 921-9526**  
**E-mail: [info@trucksafety.org](mailto:info@trucksafety.org)**