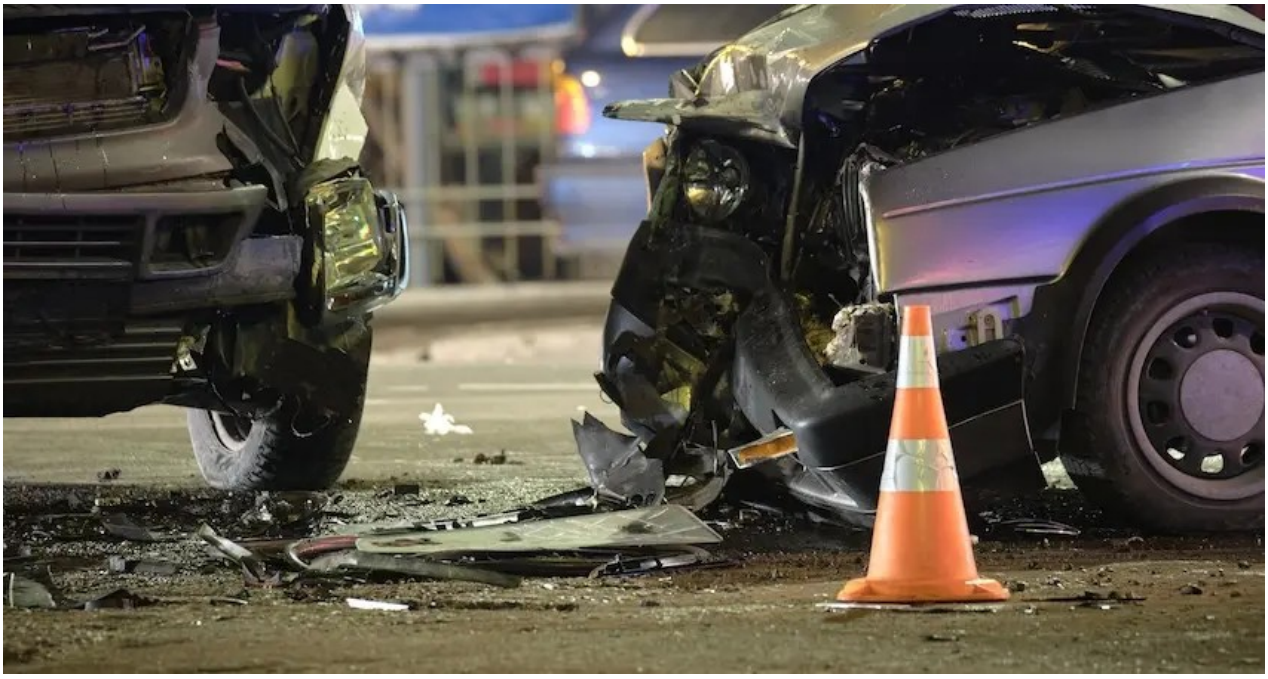

NC Injury Law Details Contributory Negligence Traps for Crash Victims

August 24, 2026

WILMINGTON, NC - August 24, 2026 -
NC Injury Law, PLLC has issued guidance for car accident victims on Wilmington's Market Street and US-117 South corridors, outlining how North Carolina's contributory negligence standard can affect claims following a recent series of collisions reported by local media. The firm's guidance responds to several documented crashes on those routes and aims to explain the legal steps victims may need to take to preserve their claims.

According to reporting by WECT, an August 4, 2026 crash involving a box truck and a sedan on Market Street backed up traffic from North College Road to N. Cardinal Drive Extension. The Wilmington Police Department confirmed the crash resulted in non-life-threatening injuries. WECT reported it as one of multiple documented vehicle collisions on the Market Street commercial corridor in the past twelve months.

Weeks earlier, according to WECT, a fatal four-vehicle crash on US Highway 117 South near the Pender-New Hanover county line on July 22, 2026 killed one person and hospitalized another. That highway

connects Wilmington to Rocky Point, Wallace, and Interstate 40, carrying both local commuter traffic and commercial vehicles serving New Hanover County's distribution and logistics sector.

The corridor's collision history extends further back. WECT reported that a July 4, 2025 hit-and-run crash on Market Street resulted in one fatality and a felony charge of hit-and-run with serious bodily injury or death against a 29-year-old Wilmington man. The case illustrates how Market Street's traffic environment can generate both collision risk and criminal exposure for drivers who flee after causing serious crashes.

Wilmington's position as a Cape Fear coast urban center contributes to seasonal traffic conditions on Market Street, College Road, and Carolina Beach Road, where visitors unfamiliar with the local road network share lanes with year-round residents during summer and holiday periods. Regional tourism organizations have characterized the area as drawing substantial visitor volume to nearby beaches, waterways, and the Historic District.

The firm's guidance notes that its attorneys gather Wilmington Police Department crash reports, NCDOT intersection camera footage, and witness statements early in a case, before an at-fault driver's insurer develops a contributory negligence position. Additional information is available through the NC Injury Law Wilmington car accident lawyer resource.

Those mixed conditions intersect with a legal standard that carries significant consequences. Under North Carolina's contributory negligence rule, a car accident victim found to be at fault may be barred from recovery, though specific exceptions and case-by-case legal analysis can apply, including doctrines such as last clear chance. In practice, insurance adjusters for at-fault drivers may examine whether the victim was familiar with local road conditions, yielded correctly at intersections such as Eastwood Road and Market Street, or was distracted, because a finding of contributory fault can affect an entire claim.

"Market Street and Carolina Beach Road carry large numbers of visitors each year who may not know the corridor's signal timing or merge patterns, and insurance adjusters frequently examine whether a victim was familiar with local conditions," said Thomas York, Founding Attorney at NC Injury Law. "After 34 years of Wilmington practice, this firm is familiar with the adjusters, defense firms, and carriers operating in New Hanover County courts, and that familiarity informs how the firm approaches contributory negligence issues for local victims."

NC Injury Law, PLLC is a personal injury law firm based in Wilmington, North Carolina, founded by Attorney Thomas York, who has practiced Wilmington personal injury law for 34 years with NC Bar admission since 1992. The firm reports having recovered more than $50 million for accident victims throughout New Hanover

County, Brunswick County, Pender County, and North Carolina, and handles car accidents, truck accidents, motorcycle crashes, and other personal injury matters on a contingency fee basis with consultations offered in English and Spanish. The firm's Wilmington car accident lawyer team handles matters throughout the region.

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For more information about NC Injury Law, contact the company here:NC Injury LawNC Injury Law(800) 800-8000info@ncinjuryteam.com3333 Wrightsville AveSuite 128Wilmington, NC 28403

NC Injury Law

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