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# ANDY CITRIN

— INJURY ATTORNEYS —

# THE ALABAMA MOTORCYCLIST'S GUIDE TO INJURY LAW.



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**A**  
ANDY CITRIN  
— INJURY ATTORNEYS —

**M**otorcycle accidents are unique from other auto accidents in several critical ways. Further, motorcyclists have unique safety considerations to keep in mind when they're on the road.

In this eBook, we'll cover statistics related to motorcycle accidents, what to do if you've been in a crash, and how to stay safe on your bike while riding on Alabama roads.

THE INFORMATION  
HERE IS ESPECIALLY  
CRITICAL FOR CRASH  
VICTIMS.

# 15TH

## ALABAMA MOTORCYCLE CRASH STATISTICS

*In 2018, there were 110,012 motorcycles registered in the state of Alabama. That same year, there were 1,859 motorcycle crashes, resulting in 1,262 injuries and 83 fatalities.*

*These numbers place Alabama 15th in the United States for motorcycle fatality rate, so there's plenty of room for improvement – for both motorcyclists and traditional drivers alike.*

## COMMON FACTORS IN ALABAMA MOTORCYCLE CRASHES



*When we understand the common causes of motorcycle crashes, riders and motorists can do more to prevent them. Common factors in Alabama motorcycle crashes include:*

**DISTRACTED DRIVING**

**NOT KEEPING A LOOKOUT FOR THE MOTORCYCLIST**

**DRIVING WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE**

**DANGEROUS DEBRIS IN THE ROAD**

**DANGEROUS MANEUVERING, LIKE LANE SPLITTING**

**DANGEROUS DRIVING**

**(LIKE NOT LOOKING BEFORE TURNING INTO A MOTORCYCLE)**



**SO, WHY DO MOST OF THESE WRECKS HAPPEN? KEEP READING TO FIND OUT.**



# 6

SIX MISTAKES

**F**ollowing a motorcycle accident, many riders accidentally damage their potential legal claim or lawsuit by making one or more of the following mistakes.



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## ➤ MISTAKES ALABAMA MOTORCYCLISTS MAKE AFTER A CRASH

### 1. Step Not Going to the Doctor

*By not going to the doctor immediately after being in a motorcycle crash, you risk being misdiagnosed or having hidden injuries get worse and leading to more pain, suffering, and medical costs. Even if you don't think you're hurt or that your injuries are minor, visiting a doctor can prevent minor injuries from getting worse. Additionally, your medical records and bills serve as valuable evidence in your claim or case.*

### 2. Not Calling the Police

*After a crash, you should immediately contact the proper authorities to ensure everyone's safety and to get an accurate record of the accident and the scene. The police report of your motorcycle accident is invaluable in determining fault and receiving compensation for your injuries and property damage.*

### 3. Accepting the First Offer the Insurance Company Makes

*When you make your claim with the negligent driver's insurance company, they might offer you an amount right away. Do not accept this offer without speaking to a lawyer first, as this amount is usually far lower than what you deserve and not enough to cover all your expenses.*

### 4. Not Preserving the Evidence

*After a crash, it's natural to want to move on as quickly as possible, but when victims rush to put the painful past behind them, they often unknowingly harm their case by throwing away valuable evidence or repairing their bike and gear without documenting the damage. Don't get rid of or repair anything without first consulting your lawyer and taking photos of the damage.*

### 5. Ignoring Your Pain

*Your physical pain is an essential piece of your insurance claim or lawsuit. If you've been hurt in a motorcycle crash, keep track of your pain — how often you hurt, where you hurt, and how badly you hurt. Your lawyer can help you track these symptoms to help you better understand your case's worth.*

### 6. Downplaying Your Mental Health

*Following a motorcycle accident, anxiety, depression, and flashbacks are normal, but that doesn't mean you should have to live with these maladies. If you feel like your mental health isn't in a good place or if you feel differently than you did prior to the crash, you should reach out to a mental health professional to discuss your feelings and develop coping strategies.*





## COMMON INJURIES AFTER A MOTORCYCLE CRASH

*According to the National Institute of Health, fatal motorcycle crashes are on the rise in the United States, especially among riders over 40.*

*In a study of 1,253 motorcyclists, researchers learned that most crashes are caused by a collision between the bike and another vehicle or fixed object. They also discovered that the most common injuries were to the legs and lower body, spine, upper extremities, and head. In other words, the whole body is at risk of injury in a motorcycle crash, even when the riders are wearing a helmet.*

### SOME COMMON MOTORCYCLE CRASH INJURIES INCLUDE:

1

Road rash

2

Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs)

3

Leg injuries (including fractures, breaks, and sprains)

4

Upper body injuries like broken arms, shoulders, or sprains

5

Upper body injuries like broken arms, shoulders, or sprains

6

Internal injuries like a punctured lung or internal bleeding

Driving defensively and following the rules of the road are essential driving practices, especially for motorcyclists, but they won't always protect you from other drivers' reckless driving or bad decisions. That's why it's so important to wear protective gear like sturdy boots, helmets, and outerwear that can protect your body in case of a crash.

# INSURANCE CLAIMS AND LAWSUITS: HOW MOTORCYCLE CRASH VICTIMS CAN **SEEK JUSTICE**

*After a motorcycle crash, it's natural to want to put the worst behind you and get on with your life. But it's hard to move on when you have medical bills piling up, can't work, can't take care of your family, and have a sudden loss of enjoyment in life. If you've found yourself in this situation, you shouldn't have to continue suffering because of someone else's mistake.*

*Filing an insurance claim is how most motorcycle victims seek compensation after a crash. By filing a claim with the negligent driver's insurance company, victims can recover compensation for their suffering, medical bills, and lost wages. However, these claims are notoriously difficult for victims, and the insurance company doesn't make it any easier. In these cases, you must have a trustworthy attorney on your side.*

*An experienced lawyer can help you pursue the insurance company with tenacity and identify other factors that may have contributed to your crash. For instance, we previously represented a motorcycle crash victim who was injured by a drunk driver. Through our investigation, we discovered that the driver was over-served at several bars before nearly killing our client. As a result, we were able to hold those bars accountable, in addition to the drunk driver himself.*

*Further, when the insurance company refuses to pay a fair settlement following a motorcycle crash, a skilled and proven lawyer can help you file a lawsuit to seek recompense through the justice system. Financial recovery can cover the following:*

- Your past and future medical bills
- Compensation for pain and suffering
- The cost of physical therapy and rehabilitation
- Lost wages and lost future wages from not being able to work
- Prescription drugs
- Surgeries, E.R. visits, and other major medical needs
- In-home aid
- Home renovations to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers
- Mobility aids and equipment
- Counseling or therapy
- Loss of enjoyment in life
- The cost of damaged property
- And more, depending on your case

*To understand the true value of your case, your best option is to speak with an experienced attorney who understands the nuances of these claims and can provide an accurate assessment of what you're owed financially as the result of your motorcycle accident.*

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## ALABAMA MOTORCYCLE SAFETY: **BEST PRACTICES**

Riding motorcycles is a terrific way to get outside and enjoy everything our state has to offer. But motorcycles can be difficult to see, hard to control, and leave riders exposed and vulnerable. As a result, motorcyclists are at a higher risk of injury or death due to an accident than traditional vehicles. So, it is essential that all motorcyclists understand how to stay safe and secure on the road.

### **Know the Rules of the Road**

Motorcycles are smaller and more agile than other vehicles, but motorcyclists are still required to follow the same laws as every other vehicle on the road. Lane splitting, which is the practice of driving between two lanes or lines of cars, is illegal in Alabama. Passing a car or motorcycle in the same lane is also illegal, as is sharing a lane with another bike. And if you are riding with a passenger, your motorcycle must be equipped to do so safely, which means the bike must have two seats and foot pegs — and that both the driver and the passenger must be wearing state-approved helmets.

### **Make Sure You Have the Proper Motorcycle License**

Prior to 2016, Alabama motorcyclists were not required to have a special license to operate their bike or moped. Today, however, riders must have a special “M” class endorsement on their license to ride a motorcycle legally in Alabama. Riders can earn this license by taking a safety course or passing a road test.

There are no horsepower restrictions for riders over the age of 16 with a motorcycle endorsement on their license. However, 14 and 15-year old riders must have a motorcycle class license to ride “motor-driven cycles” that are five horsepower or less.

### **Find a Comfortable Bike That Fits Your Body Type**

Bikes that are either too large or too small for your body type can be difficult to control comfortably, which can lead to accidents and injuries. To ensure that you’re on the right-sized bike, the handlebars should be no more than 15 inches higher than the level of your seat. Further, you should be able to rest your feet on the ground comfortably and straddle the seat without any discomfort.

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### **Wear Motorcycle-Specific Safety Equipment**

Wearing sturdy boots, protective outerwear (such as a leather jacket and chaps), and a well-fitting helmet with a face shield is critical for motorcycle safety. As experienced motorcycle crash lawyers, we constantly meet crash victims whose protective gear saved their lives and prevented more severe injuries. And, in Alabama, all motorcyclists are legally required to wear helmets when they ride.

### **Always Ride Sober**

Riding a motorcycle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is dangerous, selfish, and often deadly (not to mention illegal). Dangerous substances include illegal drugs, alcohol, marijuana, and prescription and over-the-counter medications that can have impairing side-effects — especially in combination with alcohol or other drugs. Always read the instructions carefully when taking medication of any kind, and never take or mix prescription medication that was not prescribed to you.

**Unfortunately, even when motorcyclists do everything within their power to protect themselves and drive safely, they’re still often hurt by others’ poor choices. Keep reading to learn more about motorcycle crash statistics and what to do if you’re involved in a motorcycle accident in Alabama.**

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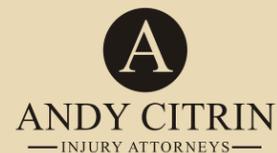
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## **A**ndy Citrin Injury Attorneys: Fighting for Alabama Motorcycle Crash Victims Like You

*If you've been in a motorcycle crash that wasn't your fault, you shouldn't have to suffer alone. At Andy Citrin Injury Attorneys, we're proud of our decades-long track record of fighting for victims and getting them the justice they deserve for their damages, pain, and suffering.*

*If you have questions about your legal options or would like to speak in confidence with a member of our team, please reach out today. We can meet with you to help you understand what to do next, what your case is worth, and what your options are moving forward.*

*We have experience with all types of Alabama motorcycle injury cases and have fought and won for hundreds of motorcycle crash victims across the state. To book an appointment today, please call **(251) 888-8888** or **complete our simple online form.***

