

# When A Minor Uses Uber And Faces Sexual Assault

## A Florida rideshare assault lawyer can fight for the rights of victims

Rideshare services like Uber and Lyft have become part of everyday life in Tampa and across Florida. They promise convenience and safety, but too often they leave riders exposed to serious danger. Sexual assault reports involving rideshare drivers have made headlines nationwide, and minors are among the most vulnerable victims.

Families often ask: Can a minor use Uber? Can Uber take minors without supervision? Can a minor ride Uber alone? The official answer is no. Yet these policies are regularly ignored, and the consequences can be devastating. When a driver knowingly allows a child into a vehicle, the company's own rules are broken. And when predators exploit these lapses, families are left to face unthinkable harm. It's the kind of harm that requires the strength and guidance of a [Tampa rideshare assault lawyer](#) to pursue justice and accountability.

### Uber's policy on minors

Uber has an official minors policy: riders must be 18 or older to create an account and ride alone. Drivers are instructed to refuse rides if they believe the passenger is underage.

In reality, enforcement of this rule is weak. Drivers frequently look the other way, whether out of fear of losing income or disregard for the rules. As a result, minors sneak out of homes at night, request an Uber, and are picked up without question. The rideshare company benefits from the fare while failing to enforce its own safeguards.

The question is not simply whether a minor can ride Uber alone. The issue is what happens when companies profit while ignoring the risks and when those risks lead directly to a sexual assault.

### How these assaults happen

The danger often begins the moment a driver accepts a ride from someone who is clearly underage. In many cases, the driver suspects or knows the passenger is a minor but allows the ride anyway. By ignoring company policy, the driver puts the child in a situation that can quickly turn dangerous.

There are several ways [assaults involving minors and rideshares](#) occur:

- **A driver commits the assault:** The driver takes advantage of the child's vulnerability during the ride, often when the minor is alone and unable to protect themselves.
- **A driver delivers the minor to a predator:** In some cases, the driver knowingly or recklessly drops the minor off at a destination where a predator is waiting, enabling the assault.

- **There are drop-offs at unsafe locations:** Drivers may leave minors in isolated or poorly lit areas late at night, exposing them to attackers.
- **There's a failure to intervene or report:** A driver who suspects exploitation but chooses not to act may be complicit in placing the minor in danger.

It takes only one lapse in judgment for tragedy to occur. Parents in Tampa know that even a single night out can change a family's life forever. When a minor is sexually assaulted after using a rideshare service, it is not an accident. It is the direct result of a failure to enforce safety rules and protect children.

### **Who can be held liable?**

In Florida, multiple parties may bear responsibility when a rideshare assault involves a minor:

- **Uber (or another rideshare company):** Companies that fail to enforce their no-minors policy, conduct negligent driver screenings, or provide inadequate safety features can be held accountable.
- **The driver:** A driver who knowingly picks up an underage rider against policy can be liable for enabling the situation that led to harm.
- **Third parties:** Predators at the destination or negligent property owners where the assault occurred may also share responsibility.

Civil liability matters because it gives families the ability to hold every responsible party accountable. Without it, parents and children are left to bear the costs of someone else's negligence.

### **Rideshare companies' tactics to avoid responsibility**

When tragedies occur, rideshare companies often distance themselves. They argue that drivers are independent contractors, not employees, and that the company cannot be held responsible for what happens during a trip.

This tactic is designed to avoid liability and shield corporate profits. Families quickly discover that Uber's lawyers and insurers are prepared to fight hard to deny compensation. Without an aggressive advocate, victims risk being silenced or pressured into unfair settlements.

At [Armando Personal Injury Law](#), rideshare companies' excuses do not intimidate us. If Uber profits from every ride, Uber must also answer for the consequences when rules are broken and children are harmed.

### **Evidence that can build a strong case**

Under Florida law, a minor cannot legally consent to sexual activity. Any assault on a child is a crime, and perpetrators face severe penalties. But criminal prosecution is only part of the equation. Families must also consider civil action. A lawsuit provides the resources needed for

long-term medical care, counseling, and rebuilding a shattered future. It also sends a clear message that companies profiting from unsafe practices will be held accountable.

However, the difference between a dismissed claim and a strong case often comes down to evidence. After a rideshare sexual assault, critical information can disappear quickly unless a lawyer intervenes. Key forms of evidence include:

- Ride records and GPS data showing the driver accepted a minor passenger and the route taken.
- Driver background checks and trip history that may reveal prior complaints or red flags.
- Communications between the minor and driver, including text messages or app logs.
- Medical and psychological evaluations documenting the assault and its impact.

A Tampa personal injury lawyer with experience in these cases knows how to secure, preserve, and use this evidence before companies erase or conceal it.

### **Compensation available to victims and families**

No amount of money can undo the trauma of a sexual assault, but compensation is essential for recovery and accountability. Families may be entitled to damages covering:

- Medical and therapy expenses for physical and emotional care.
- Long-term counseling and trauma support that victims often need for years.
- Pain and suffering damages reflecting the emotional toll of the assault.
- Punitive damages in cases of reckless or intentional misconduct.

Full compensation restores stability and ensures negligent rideshare companies do not escape responsibility.

### **Steps to take after a rideshare sexual assault involving a minor**

The moments after discovering an assault are overwhelming, but the actions families take can protect their child and their legal rights.

- Call law enforcement immediately and make a full report.
- Seek urgent medical and psychological care to protect the child's health and create documentation of the assault.
- Preserve evidence such as receipts, text messages, and app records.
- Contact a Tampa personal injury lawyer to begin the investigation and fight for accountability.

When corporations like Uber refuse to take responsibility, victims need a law firm that refuses to back down. Armando Personal Injury Law was founded to give a voice to people treated unjustly and to stand with families during their darkest hours. Every step matters. The sooner families act, the stronger the case for justice becomes.

## **Armando Personal Injury Law protects victims and fights for families**

[Attorney Armando Edmiston](#) was raised in Hillsborough County, and his mission is to fight for Tampa families as if they were his own. Clients are not just case files. They are family. With millions recovered for victims across Florida, our firm has proven it has the strength and determination to take on the biggest companies.

If your child was harmed after using Uber or another rideshare service, you are not alone. [Contact us](#) today for a free consultation. From the first call to the final resolution, our legal team will stand with you every step of the way, fighting fiercely until justice is achieved.