

CHILD BICYCLE ACCIDENTS ARE ON THE RISE IN FLORIDA



Safety Tips for Parents

Protecting your child starts before they ever hit the pavement. Even with careful planning and protective gear, accidents still happen. Many crashes involve negligent drivers who speed, fail to yield, or don't look for young cyclists. That's why knowing your safety checklist is important, but so is knowing your legal options. A few key steps:

- ✔ **Choose the right size bike**, never one they'll "grow into."
- ✔ **Stick with coaster brakes** for young kids; hand brakes require strength and coordination.
- ✔ **Teach driveway and alley awareness**. Even on sidewalks, cars may pull out suddenly.
- ✔ **Secure loose clothing, shoelaces, and straps** that can tangle in spokes or chains.
- ✔ **Always wear a helmet**. Head injuries are among the most devastating—but most preventable.

FAQs About Florida Bike Accidents Involving Children

What are the most common injuries children suffer in Florida bike accidents?

Children often suffer head injuries, growth plate fractures, dental trauma, and internal injuries when hit by a car while biking. Because kids are smaller and more vulnerable, even low-speed crashes can result in long-term damage that affects development and quality of life. A lawyer can help assess the full scope of impact and long-term costs.

Who is legally responsible when a child is hit while riding a bike?

Liability usually falls on the driver if they failed to yield, sped through a neighborhood, or didn't check for cyclists before turning or backing up. However, insurance companies may try to shift blame onto the child. An experienced injury lawyer can help set the record straight and protect your child's right to full compensation.

What if my child wasn't wearing a helmet during the crash?

Not wearing a helmet does not automatically make your child at fault or prevent a claim. Florida law requires helmets for riders under 16, but drivers still have a duty to avoid hitting cyclists. A lawyer can help overcome any attempts to reduce or deny compensation based on helmet use.

How long do I have to file a bike accident claim for my child in Florida?

In most cases, you have two years from the date of the crash to file a personal injury lawsuit in Florida. However, cases involving children can be more complex, and starting early allows your attorney to preserve evidence and build a strong case.

What should I do if the driver's insurance company contacts me?

Do not give a recorded statement or accept any settlement without legal advice. Insurance adjusters may seem sympathetic, but their goal is to minimize payouts. A personal injury lawyer can handle all communications and fight for a settlement that reflects your child's future needs.

Free Consultation.

No Fee Unless We Win.

Call (813) 482-0355 or visit www.armandoinjurylaw.com to speak with Armando Personal Injury Law.

Why Children Face a Higher Risk of Injury

The [Centers for Disease Control](#) reports that **kids ages 10–14 have the highest emergency room rates for bicycle-related injuries**. These often involve:



Brain injuries and head trauma due to unprotected or improperly fitted helmets.



Growth plate fractures that can affect limb development. Growth plates are the soft areas of cartilage near the ends of long bones in children and teens.



Crashes in high-traffic zones where visibility is poor or crossing signs are missing.



Children are smaller, harder to see, and often ride in or near busy areas without the same defensive awareness as adult cyclists. And when a crash happens, their injuries are more likely to result in lifelong consequences.

Bike Crashes Are Sending More Florida Kids to the ER

Florida is already one of the most dangerous states in the country for cyclists, and that danger doesn't skip over children. In fact, several of the most hazardous bike crash zones in the U.S. are in and around Tampa. Nationwide, kids 14 and under accounted for 13% of all bicycle injuries in 2020, and many of those involved brain trauma, growth plate damage, or long-term orthopedic injuries.

Several of Florida's most dangerous roads for bicycle crashes are in the Tampa Bay area, putting local children at real risk:

E Floribaska Ave Near N Nebraska Ave

TAMPA

E Busch Blvd Near N Nebraska Ave

TAMPA

34th St N Near 62nd Ave N

ST. PETERSBURG

17th St Near N Washington Blvd

SARASOTA

Cortez Rd W Near 26th St W

BRADENTON

A recent federal analysis ranked Pasco County, just north of Tampa, as the deadliest place in the country for cycling. Manatee and Sarasota counties followed close behind.



What To Do If Your Child Has Been Hurt in a Florida Bicycle Accident

Armando Personal Injury Law has seen the long-term toll that bike crashes take on families. When a driver's negligence changes a child's life, the case deserves immediate and serious legal attention. Medical costs, future surgeries, missed school, and emotional trauma can add up quickly.

We help families get answers and compensation when their children are hurt. If your child has suffered a bicycle injury in Florida, contact us today.