

How Florida Courts Handle Motorcycle Accidents Caused by Defective Motorcycle Parts

An experienced Palm Beach Gardens attorney who knows how to get results

A [motorcycle accident](#) caused by faulty parts can happen when you least expect it. One moment you're rolling along on I-95 or PGA Boulevard, feeling the road through the pegs and trusting your bike the way you trust your own reflexes. Then a front brake locks without warning, a tire lets go, or the steering suddenly shudders and you are on the ground before you can process what happened.

When a motorcycle part fails, there often is no speeding SUV to blame and no obvious reckless driver to point to. Instead, the core problem may be hidden inside a caliper, a tire bead, or a fuel line that no one can see with the naked eye. Florida law recognizes that these crashes are different from typical traffic collisions, and our courts treat them as product liability cases that focus on the condition of the machine itself rather than only on another driver's conduct.

What defective motorcycle parts often cause Florida crashes

These are some of the components we frequently see at the center of potential product liability investigations.

- **Braking systems and ABS modules:** Defective brake pads, rotors, lines, or anti-lock modules can cause delayed braking, sudden lockups, or complete loss of stopping power, particularly dangerous in stop-and-go South Florida traffic.
- **Tires, wheels, and beads:** Hidden defects in the rubber compound, sidewall, or bead can lead to blowouts, tread separation, or sudden deflation that throws a rider into a slide with no time to react.
- **Steering, forks, and suspension:** Faulty bearings, improperly machined forks, or substandard suspension components can create high-speed wobble, "tank slappers," or front-end instability just when a rider needs precision the most.
- **Fuel systems and engines:** Defective fuel lines, tanks, or connectors can leak or rupture, increasing the risk of post-crash fires, while engine components that seize or cut out unexpectedly can trigger rear-end crashes or loss of balance.
- **Electrical systems and controls:** Problems with throttles, ignition systems, wiring, or electronic control units can cause unintended acceleration, power loss, or malfunctioning lights that make riders less visible.

Defects can arise in parts installed at the factory, in aftermarket components riders add later, or in replacement parts sold during routine maintenance. Florida law can reach any company in the chain of distribution that contributed to putting a dangerous product in your hands.

How Florida law treats defective motorcycle parts

To understand how Florida courts view these cases, it helps to separate a standard negligence claim from a product liability claim. In a typical motorcycle crash, we might pursue a negligent driver for speeding, running a red light, or texting behind the wheel. In a defect case, we turn our attention to the part itself and ask whether it was unreasonably dangerous when it left the manufacturer or seller.

Florida recognizes several theories we can use in defective motorcycle part cases: negligence, strict liability, and failure to warn. Under strict liability, we don't have to prove that the manufacturer was careless in its design or production. Instead, the focus is on whether the motorcycle or part had a defect and whether that defect caused your injuries.

Key types of defects in Florida product cases

Courts and juries will usually encounter one or more of these categories when they evaluate a defective motorcycle part claim.

- **Design defects:** The overall design of the part is unreasonably dangerous, even when built correctly. For example, a fuel tank placed in a way that makes it likely to rupture in foreseeable crashes may raise design questions.
- **Manufacturing defects:** Something went wrong in the production process, such as contamination, incorrect materials, or improper assembly, making certain units unsafe even if the design on paper is sound.
- **Failure to warn or inadequate instructions:** The product doesn't include adequate warnings about non-obvious risks, weight limits, maintenance intervals, or installation requirements that are necessary to use the part safely.

Liability may extend beyond the primary manufacturer. Florida courts often allow injured riders to sue component manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, retailers, and, in some situations, dealers or repair shops that negligently installed or serviced the defective part. One failure can generate responsibility for several different defendants.

What riders must prove in court

Even when a crash feels obviously linked to a part failure, Florida courts require injured riders to prove specific elements before they can recover from a manufacturer or seller. The Law Offices of Casey D. Shomo, P.A. works through each element methodically.

To build a viable defective motorcycle part case in Florida, we generally need to show that:

- a defect existed in the motorcycle or part (design, manufacturing, or warning),
- the defect was present when the product left the control of the manufacturer or seller,
- the defect was a direct and proximate cause of the crash and injuries, and
- you suffered legally recognized damages such as medical expenses, lost income, and pain and suffering.

In practice, those elements demand significant evidence. We may use engineering analysis, quality-control records, internal manufacturer documents, and expert testimony to prove that a defect exists and that it wasn't created later through misuse or unauthorized modification.

Causation often becomes the most contested issue. Manufacturers and insurance companies regularly argue that the rider was speeding, that road conditions were poor, or that another driver caused the crash. We respond by pulling every available thread of evidence together so the court can see how the part failure fits into the chain of events.

How Florida courts evaluate evidence in defective part lawsuits

When these cases reach Florida courtrooms, judges and juries are not just hearing abstract theories. They see physical evidence, technical analysis, and witness accounts woven together into a narrative. Our job is to make that narrative as clear and persuasive as possible.

Courts typically evaluate several categories of evidence in defective motorcycle part cases:

- **Physical inspection of the motorcycle and parts:** Detailed inspections, tear-downs, and lab testing can reveal cracks, fatigue, improper materials, or assembly errors that are invisible at a glance.
- **Crash scene documentation and reconstruction:** Photos, measurements, police reports, and sometimes onboard or nearby video are used by reconstruction experts to show how the bike behaved before and during the crash.
- **Maintenance, purchase, and repair records:** Service logs, receipts, and dealer records help demonstrate that the motorcycle was used reasonably and that the rider complied with recommended maintenance.

- **Recall, complaint, and regulatory data:** NHTSA recalls and prior complaints can support arguments that a product posed a known risk and that defendants should have addressed it before the crash.
- **Expert testimony from engineers and medical professionals:** Courts frequently rely on qualified engineers to explain complex mechanical issues and on medical providers to link the crash to the injuries and long-term consequences.

Damages riders can seek after a defective motorcycle part crash

When a motorcycle part fails, the injuries are often severe. Riders don't have the protection of a steel frame, airbags, or crumple zones, so a defect that might cause a fender-bender in a car can cause life-altering trauma on a bike. Florida law allows injured riders and families to pursue several categories of damages in these cases.

In a defective motorcycle part claim, you can seek:

- **Economic damages:** These include medical bills, rehabilitation costs, lost wages, loss of future earning capacity, and out-of-pocket expenses tied to the crash.
- **Non-economic damages:** Riders can pursue compensation for pain and suffering, mental anguish, and loss of enjoyment of life, which are often significant after a serious crash.
- **Wrongful death damages:** When a defect causes a fatal crash, surviving family members may recover for loss of financial support, loss of companionship, funeral expenses, and other losses under Florida's wrongful death laws.

How our firm builds a defective motorcycle part case

[The Law Offices of Casey D. Shomo, P.A.](#) approaches a potential defective motorcycle part case with both investigative curiosity and courtroom focus. We know that manufacturers and their insurance providers will come prepared, and we believe riders deserve the same level of preparation on their side.

In the early stages, we listen closely to your description of the crash. Sudden loss of control without clear outside interference, a part that failed shortly after purchase or repair, or a recall notice that arrived too late are all signals that a deeper investigation may be needed. If there are signs of a defect, we move quickly to secure the motorcycle, locate key records, and begin consulting with appropriate experts.

Along the way, we handle the communications with manufacturers, corporate counsel, and insurance adjusters so you do not have to field aggressive questions while you are trying to heal.

If the defendants refuse to accept responsibility, we're prepared to present your case in court and let a judge or jury decide accountability.

If you suspect a defective part played a role in your Florida motorcycle crash, [contact us](#) to talk through your options and learn how we can help you move forward.