

# What Happens If a Cyclist Hits a Pedestrian in Florida?

## Cyclist vs. Pedestrian Accidents Can Result in Severe Injuries

Florida's sidewalks, crosswalks, and multi-use paths are busy with both cyclists and pedestrians. In places like Palm Beach Gardens, these groups often share the same space, and when accidents happen, it is the pedestrian who usually suffers the worst harm.

A collision between a cyclist and a pedestrian can cause devastating injuries, leaving the victim unsure of who is responsible, how to pay medical bills, and what options exist for financial recovery. While victims are entitled to compensation, pursuing it is rarely a straightforward process. However, with the right pedestrian accident lawyer, the path forward becomes clearer and more manageable.

## How Cyclist-Pedestrian Accidents Happen

Collisions between cyclists and pedestrians can occur in many ways, often due to negligent behavior. Some of the most common scenarios in Florida include:

- Cyclists running stop signs or failing to yield in crosswalks.
- Riding at high speeds on sidewalks and striking pedestrians.
- Distracted cycling, such as texting, using GPS, or wearing headphones.
- Ignoring traffic signals at intersections.
- Passing too closely to pedestrians on shared-use paths.

These behaviors pose serious risks, and when they result in an accident, the cyclist may be held liable for the resulting injuries.

## Florida Law On Cyclists And Pedestrians

[Cyclists in Florida](#) are required to follow the same traffic laws as motorists when operating on the road. This includes stopping at red lights and stop signs, yielding when required, and signaling turns.

On sidewalks, cyclists are legally permitted to ride, but they must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. They must also give an audible signal when overtaking a pedestrian.

When cyclists fail to fulfill these duties, they may be considered negligent. Pedestrians also have obligations, such as using crosswalks where available, but in many collisions, the cyclist bears the greater share of responsibility.

## Determining Liability In A Cyclist-Pedestrian Collision

Liability in these cases is established through negligence. The question is whether the cyclist failed to act with reasonable care under the circumstances. If so, the cyclist can be held financially responsible for the damages caused.

Florida follows a comparative negligence system, meaning that if the pedestrian was partly at fault, compensation may be reduced by their percentage of fault. For example, if a pedestrian was looking at their phone while crossing, the insurer may argue they share some responsibility. Even so, the pedestrian can still recover compensation if the cyclist's negligence was the primary cause of the crash.

Proving liability requires strong evidence, such as police reports, eyewitness accounts, surveillance video, and medical records. Gathering and presenting this evidence effectively is often difficult without legal support, but it is essential to building a successful claim.

### **Common Injuries Pedestrians Suffer**

When a bicycle collides with a pedestrian, the outcome can be severe. Unlike cyclists, pedestrians have no protective equipment, making them especially vulnerable. Injuries often include:

- Broken bones and fractures caused by direct impact or falls.
- Traumatic brain injuries from striking the ground or being thrown.
- Spinal cord injuries that can cause long-term disability.
- Severe lacerations and soft tissue damage that require extensive medical care.

These injuries can lead to long hospital stays, rehabilitation, and, in some cases, permanent impairment. The financial toll is significant, and full compensation is necessary to protect the victim's future.

### **Legal Options For Injured Pedestrians in Florida**

Cyclist-pedestrian accidents present unique challenges. Unlike car accidents, there is often no readily available auto liability policy. Identifying coverage can involve reviewing homeowner's insurance, renter's policies, or other less obvious sources. When a cyclist causes injury to a pedestrian, several legal options may be available to pursue compensation:

- **Homeowner's or Renter's Insurance:** Many cyclists have coverage under these policies that may apply to liability claims.
- **Cyclist's Auto Insurance:** Some auto policies extend to bicycle-related accidents.
- **Personal Injury Claim Against The Cyclist:** Victims can file a claim directly against the cyclist for damages.

- **Health Insurance or Medical Payments Coverage:** Provides initial care but does not cover long-term damages.

The damages recoverable through these options may include medical bills and rehabilitation costs, lost wages, and diminished future earning potential, pain and suffering, and, when applicable, permanent disability or disfigurement. Understanding which option applies and how to maximize compensation requires specialized legal expertise and thorough investigation.

Proving these damages requires extensive documentation, including medical records, employment verification, and expert testimony on future care or lost earning potential. Without legal representation, victims often find themselves overwhelmed and pressured into unfair settlements. With experienced guidance, every available source of compensation can be identified and pursued effectively.

### **What Injured Pedestrians Should Do Immediately**

The steps taken after a cyclist-pedestrian accident can greatly impact both medical recovery and financial recovery. Victims should:

- Report the accident to law enforcement so there is an official record.
- Seek medical care immediately to treat injuries and create documentation.
- Collect contact information from the cyclist and any witnesses.
- Preserve evidence, including photos of the scene, damaged property, and clothing.
- Contact a lawyer quickly to protect rights and begin the claims process.

Taking these steps can make the difference between a weak claim and a strong one. A lawyer can assist with each step, ensuring nothing is overlooked.

### **Protecting Your Rights After A Cyclist-Pedestrian Crash**

A pedestrian struck by a cyclist in Florida may be left with life-changing injuries and financial hardship. For most victims, pursuing compensation after being struck by a cyclist is unfamiliar and intimidating.

Victims are entitled to compensation, but recovering it requires evidence, documentation, and persistence against insurers who often resist paying fair amounts. With the right lawyer, the process becomes manageable. A lawyer simplifies the process by:

- Gathering evidence such as surveillance footage and witness statements.
- Working with doctors and financial experts to prove the full scope of damages.
- Identifying every possible insurance policy that may provide coverage.
- Negotiating directly with insurers to counter undervalued offers.

- Preparing the case for trial if necessary to ensure maximum recovery.

This work is time-consuming and requires experience, but with legal support, the victim can focus on healing while knowing their rights are being protected. Victims can focus on their recovery while a dedicated legal professional fights for the compensation they deserve and ensures their future is protected.

### **Get The Compensation You Deserve After A Pedestrian Accident**

If you have been struck by a cyclist or vehicle in Florida, you may be entitled to far more than what insurance first offers. Many pedestrian accident settlements reach six or seven figures, depending on the severity of the injuries, but every case is different, and your recovery should reflect your unique losses.

At the [Law Offices of Casey D. Shomo, P.A.](#), our team knows how to build strong cases, work with medical and financial experts, and push back when insurers undervalue claims. You will never pay out of pocket. Cases are handled on a contingency fee basis, which means you owe nothing unless compensation is secured on your behalf.

Your consultation is free, and one call is all it takes to put an experienced pedestrian accident lawyer on your side. Trust that you will be supported every step of the way, from gathering evidence to fighting for the results you deserve. To find out how Mr. Shomo can help with your potential legal case, [contact us today](#) for a free consultation.