Horst Shewmaker, LLC Highlights Time Constraints for Truck Accident Victims Due to Federal Regulations

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ALPHARETTA, GA - November 21, 2025 -
Horst Shewmaker, LLC, a personal injury law firm based in Alpharetta, Georgia, is raising awareness about the urgent timeline constraints facing truck accident victims due to federal regulations that allow trucking companies to destroy crucial evidence after specific retention periods.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulations permit trucking companies to dispose of driver logs after six months and certain qualification files after three years. This creates a narrow window for accident victims to secure evidence that could prove critical to their cases. The firm emphasizes that early legal intervention can mean the difference between accessing complete records and losing vital documentation forever.

Truck accidents on major corridors like Interstate 285 in the Atlanta metropolitan area continue to pose significant risks to motorists. These collisions often result in catastrophic injuries due to the size and weight disparity between commercial trucks and passenger vehicles. The complexity of determining liability in these cases requires thorough investigation of multiple factors, including driver qualification files, hours-of-service logs, maintenance records, and freight-broker contracts.

"When trucking companies are only required to maintain driver logs for six months, every day counts for accident victims," said Zachary S. Shewmaker, partner at Horst Shewmaker, LLC. "We've seen cases where critical evidence disappeared because victims waited too long to seek legal representation. Our immediate priority in any truck accident case is to send preservation letters to prevent the destruction of electronic logging device data, dashcam footage, and other time-sensitive evidence."

The firm's truck accident attorneys have developed systematic approaches to accessing and preserving evidence before federal retention deadlines expire. This includes obtaining driver qualification files that reveal hiring practices, training records, and previous violations that might indicate negligent retention. Additionally, the firm investigates freight-broker agreements that could expose additional liable parties beyond the driver and trucking company.

Beyond the immediate evidence preservation concerns, truck accident cases involve navigating complex federal and state regulations that govern the trucking industry. These regulations cover everything from weight limits and cargo securement to mandatory rest periods and vehicle maintenance schedules. Understanding these requirements and identifying violations requires specialized legal knowledge that general personal injury attorneys may lack.

The economic impact of truck accidents extends far beyond immediate medical expenses. Victims often face long-term rehabilitation needs, lost earning capacity, and significant lifestyle adjustments. The firm's approach involves comprehensive damage assessment to ensure all current and future needs are addressed in settlement negotiations or trial proceedings.

Horst Shewmaker truck accident lawyers have successfully recovered compensation for clients by demonstrating various forms of negligence, including driver fatigue, improper loading, inadequate maintenance, and violations of federal safety regulations. Their experience includes cases involving jackknife accidents, underride collisions, and multi-vehicle pile-ups caused by commercial trucks.

Horst Shewmaker, LLC operates on a contingency fee basis, meaning clients pay no attorney fees unless the firm secures compensation on their behalf. The firm's attorneys, including Michael W. Horst, Zachary S. Shewmaker, Jarrett L. Miller, and Torrie L. Dale, bring over 50 years of combined experience in personal injury law to each case they handle.

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Horst Shewmaker, LLC

Horst Shewmaker, LLC is a highly specialized personal injury law firm based in Alpharetta, Georgia, serving clients throughout the state. Horst Shewmaker is dedicated to providing personalized and empathetic legal representation.

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