

# 1Georgia Injury Lawyers Addresses Rising Motorcycle Fatalities in Columbus Amid Legal Reform

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1Georgia Personal Injury Lawyers is responding to the alarming increase in Georgia motorcycle fatalities, which reached 207 deaths in 2022 according to the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety. This represents a seven percent year-over-year increase and continues a troubling trend that has seen motorcycle deaths rise approximately 29 percent since 2017.

The statewide network of personal injury law firms is highlighting the disproportionate crash risk facing Columbus-area riders on Muscogee County roads. A November 2024 fatal crash near Macon Road and Reese Road, where a motorcyclist died after being struck from behind by an SUV while stopped at a red light, underscores the deadly consequences riders face at signalized intersections. The 1Georgia Firm Columbus motorcycle accident lawyer network emphasizes that such rear-impact collisions represent some of the most legally actionable cases in Georgia.

Despite representing only 0.4 percent of registered vehicles in Georgia, motorcycles account for nearly 13

percent of total traffic fatalities, according to state data. This severe overrepresentation reflects the physical vulnerability of riders in multi-vehicle collisions, particularly in urban corridors throughout Muscogee County.

"The November 2024 Columbus fatal crash exemplifies one of the most legally actionable motorcycle accident scenarios in Georgia, yet these cases are now vulnerable to Senate Bill 68's phantom damage restrictions," stated a Firm Representative for 1Georgia Personal Injury Lawyers. "Medical billing in motorcycle trauma cases often exceeds insurer payment rates by significant margins, and under the new law, plaintiffs can only recover the lower amounts actually paid. Columbus riders need legal representation that understands how to document and preserve the full value of their injury claims under this reformed framework."

Georgia Senate Bill 68, signed in April 2025, introduced substantial changes affecting motorcycle injury claims. For claims arising after April 21, 2025, medical expense recovery is limited to amounts actually paid or expected to be paid, which is particularly significant in high-cost motorcycle trauma cases. The law also restricts how attorneys can argue noneconomic damages before juries and allows either party to demand bifurcated trials separating liability and damages phases.

The legal vulnerability of motorcyclists extends beyond the physical risks they face on the road. Insurance companies routinely argue that a rider's speed, lane position, or lack of protective gear contributed to injury severity. The new legislative framework provides defense teams with additional tools to push comparative fault arguments that can reduce or eliminate recovery for injured riders.

Nearly 30 percent of Georgia fatal motorcycle crashes involve alcohol and over 35 percent of riders in fatal crashes were speeding, according to the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety. However, a significant share of motorcycle fatalities involves driver error by other motorists, particularly failure to yield and rear-impact collisions at intersections.

The two-year statute of limitations for motorcycle accident personal injury claims in Georgia makes timely legal consultation critical for crash victims. Evidence preservation becomes especially important at signalized intersections where rear-impact and failure-to-yield collisions are most common. A Columbus motorcycle accident lawyer familiar with both local crash patterns and statewide legal reforms can help victims navigate the complex litigation landscape.

1Georgia Personal Injury Lawyers is a statewide network of personal injury law firms serving injured clients throughout Georgia, including Columbus and Muscogee County. All attorneys in the network are members of the State Bar of Georgia, the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association, and the Atlanta Bar Association. The

network handles motorcycle accidents, car accidents, truck accidents, rideshare accidents, and workers' compensation claims on a contingency fee basis, with free case evaluations available 24/7.

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## 1Georgia Injury Lawyers

*Georgia Injury Lawyers Coalition is a team of aggressive trial attorneys dedicated to fighting for maximum compensation. We prepare every case for trial?not just settlement?so you get the experienced, determined legal representation you deserve.*

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