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Motorcycle Accidents in Buffalo, NY: Causes, Fault, and Legal Claims

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A motorcycle offers little protection when a moving vehicle suddenly cuts across its path. Even a small mistake on the road can lead to serious injuries for a rider. In Buffalo, NY, traffic, changing road conditions, and careless driving can create risks for motorcyclists.

The **causes of a motorcycle accident in Buffalo** may include speeding, distracted driving, unsafe turns, and failure to yield. Understanding how these crashes happen can help riders understand how fault is assessed, what evidence may matter, and which types of compensation may be available after an accident.

Common Causes of Motorcycle Accidents

Motorcycle crashes can happen for several reasons, and many involve drivers failing to notice riders or follow basic traffic rules. Road conditions can also make riding more difficult.

Distracted Driving

Drivers who look at their phones, adjust navigation systems, or take their eyes off the road may miss an approaching motorcycle. Even a brief distraction can leave little time to avoid a crash.

Unsafe Turns and Lane Changes

A driver may turn left across a motorcycle’s path or move into another lane without checking blind spots. These mistakes can cause serious collisions, especially at busy intersections.

Speeding and Dangerous Driving

Excessive speed reduces reaction time and makes it harder to stop safely. Alcohol or drug use can also affect judgment and coordination, increasing the risk of a collision.

Poor Road Conditions

Potholes, loose gravel, wet pavement, and uneven roads can make it difficult for riders to maintain control. In Buffalo, changing weather can also affect road grip and visibility.

Who Can Be at Fault in a Motorcycle Accident?

Fault depends on what each person did before and during the crash. A driver who ignores a traffic signal or fails to yield may be responsible for causing a collision. However, a motorcycle rider's actions may also be considered when determining responsibility.

Other parties may sometimes share responsibility. For example, a road maintenance company or government agency may be liable if a dangerous road condition contributed to the crash and the legal requirements for liability are met. A manufacturer may also face a claim if a defective vehicle part caused the accident.

New York follows a comparative negligence system. An injured person may still recover compensation if partly at fault, but the amount may be reduced according to their share of responsibility.

Evidence That Can Help Establish Fault

Several types of evidence may help show how a motorcycle crash happened:

- Police reports: These may record statements, road conditions, and details of the collision.
- Photos and videos: Images of vehicle damage, traffic signs, and the accident scene may help explain what happened.
- Witness statements: People who saw the crash may provide useful information.
- Medical records: These can document injuries and the treatment received.

Injuries Commonly Caused by Motorcycle Crashes

Motorcyclists do not have the same physical protection as people inside cars. As a result, even a crash at a lower speed can cause serious harm.

Common injuries include:

- Head injuries: A rider may suffer a concussion or traumatic brain injury.
- Broken bones: Arms, legs, ribs, and other bones may break during impact.
- Road rash: Contact with the pavement can cause painful skin damage and lasting scars.
- Spinal injuries: Damage to the spine may affect movement and daily activities.
- Internal injuries: The force of a collision can damage organs and require emergency treatment.

Some injuries need surgery, rehabilitation, or long periods away from work, which can add financial pressure during recovery.

What Compensation May Be Available?

An injured rider may be able to seek compensation if another party's negligence caused the crash. The amount and types of damages depend on the facts and applicable law.

Possible losses may include:

- Medical expenses: Hospital visits, surgery, medication, and physical therapy.
- Lost wages: Income missed during recovery.
- Future income losses: Reduced ability to earn money because of lasting injuries.

- Pain and suffering: Physical pain and the effects of an injury on daily life.
- Property damage: Reasonable costs to repair or replace a damaged motorcycle.

Records of medical bills, missed work, and repair costs may help support a claim.

Steps to Take After a Motorcycle Accident

The actions taken after a crash can help protect a rider's health and preserve useful information.

- Get medical attention: Seek care promptly, even if an injury seems minor.
- Report the crash: Contact the police when required and keep a copy of the report if available.
- Collect evidence: Take photos of the scene and vehicle damage if it is safe.
- Save important records: Keep medical bills, repair estimates, receipts, and proof of lost income.
- Be careful with insurance statements: Share accurate information and avoid guessing about fault or injuries.

These steps can help create a clearer record of the accident and its effects.

Know Your Rights After a Motorcycle Crash

The causes of a motorcycle accident in Buffalo can affect how fault is assessed and what compensation may be available. Understanding the evidence, keeping clear records, and knowing the deadlines for a claim can help injured riders make informed choices. New York generally sets a three-year deadline for **personal injury lawsuits**, although exceptions apply and claims involving government entities may have shorter notice periods. Anyone involved in a serious motorcycle crash should learn which rules apply to their circumstances before deciding how to proceed.

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