AFTER A CRASH

The first hour

1. **Call 911.** Ask for police and EMS, and make sure an official report is made, even if you feel fine.
2. **Save your footage.** Stop your Garmin, camera or ride app and save the file. Back it up as soon as you can. Don't reset or record over it.
3. **Photograph everything.** The vehicle, its plate, the scene, your bike, your injuries and the road.
4. **Get names.** Driver, insurance, witnesses and the officer's name and report number.
5. **Get checked.** See a doctor the same day. Some injuries, like concussions, show up later.
6. **Keep your gear.** Don't repair or throw away your bike, helmet, kit or computer. They're evidence.
7. **Don't give a statement.** Don't give a recorded statement to the driver's insurer before talking to a lawyer.

Then call us: 877-878-7584.

HURT ON A RIDE?

Talk to a lawyer who rides.

Hall Trial Lawyers represents injured cyclists and their families. Free consultation, and no fee unless we win your injury case.

CALL DAY OR NIGHT

877-878-7584

halltrials.com

Scan for this guide online, plus guides for North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

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PROTECTING THE PELOTON®

Know Your Lane

Illinois

A rider's guide to Illinois cycling laws, and what to do in the first hour after a crash.

HALL | TRIAL LAWYERS

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ILLINOIS LAW

The laws that protect you

Three feet
Drivers must leave at least 3 feet when passing a bicycle and keep that distance until safely past (625 ILCS 5/11-703).

Dooring
No one may open a car door on the traffic side until it is reasonably safe to do so (625 ILCS 5/11-1407).

Serious penalties
An unsafe pass that causes great bodily harm to a cyclist can be a crime, not just a ticket (625 ILCS 5/11-703).

Illinois' fault rule. A rider who is not more than 50% at fault can still recover, with damages reduced by the rider's share of fault.

ON THE ROAD

The rules you ride by

Lights at night
A white front light visible from 500 feet and a red rear reflector; a steady or flashing red rear light visible from 500 feet may be used too (625 ILCS 5/11-1507).

Riding side by side
Two abreast is allowed as long as you don't impede normal traffic; more than two is not (625 ILCS 5/11-1505.1).

Shoulders
You may ride on the shoulder (625 ILCS 5/11-709.1). On a one-way street with two or more lanes, you may ride near the left curb.

Be seen, day and night
Daytime running lights, front and rear, make you visible from much farther away.

Ride predictably
Hold your line, signal early and make eye contact at intersections.

YOUR BEST WITNESS

Ride with a camera

A rear radar light like the Garmin Varia, or a front and rear camera, warns you about cars coming up behind you and records what happened if something goes wrong.

In a North Carolina case we handled, a rider's Garmin footage showed exactly what the driver did, and it made the difference.

Keep it charged
Make cameras and lights part of your pre-ride check.

Turn on incident capture
So a crash saves the clip automatically.

Save it right away
After a close call or crash, save and back up the file.

Deadlines & insurance

Don't wait
Most injury claims must be filed within 2 years. Claims against a city, the CTA or another local government can have a 1-year deadline.

Check your own policy
Your own uninsured and underinsured motorist (UM/UIM) car insurance coverage can cover you on a bike when the driver has little or no insurance.