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, Georgia and Illinois.

**Tryon, NC (headquarters)**
70A Pacolet Street, Tryon, NC 28782

**Winston-Salem, NC**
844 W. 4th Street, Winston-Salem, NC

**Greenville, SC**
107 E. Park Avenue, Suite 203, Greenville, SC

ATTORNEY ADVERTISING. General information, not legal advice; laws change, and this guide is current as of November 2026. Reading it does not create an attorney-client relationship. Past results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Injury cases: no attorney fee unless we win; clients may be responsible for case costs as stated in the fee agreement. Responsible attorney: Kaitlin King, Hall Trial Lawyers, PLLC, 107 E. Park Avenue, Suite 203, Greenville, SC 29601. Protecting the Peloton® is a registered trademark of Hall Trial Lawyers, PLLC.

PROTECTING THE PELOTON®

# Know Your Lane

## *South Carolina*

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

HALL | TRIAL LAWYERS

Bicycle Advocacy · Injury Law · Immigration Law

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW

## The laws that protect you

**Safe passing distance**
Drivers must keep a safe operating distance between their vehicle and a bicycle (S.C. Code § 56-5-3435).

**Due care**
Drivers must use due care to avoid a collision with a bicyclist (S.C. Code § 56-5-3230).

**Harassment**
It is illegal to harass, taunt or throw anything at a person riding a bicycle (S.C. Code § 56-5-3445).

**South Carolina's fault rule.** A rider who shares some blame can still recover, as long as the rider is not more than 50% at fault. Damages are reduced by the rider's share of fault.

ON THE ROAD

## The rules you ride by

**Position**
Ride as near the right side of the road as practicable. You are not required to ride on the shoulder (S.C. Code § 56-5-3430).

**Riding side by side**
No more than two abreast, except on paths set aside for bicycles (S.C. Code § 56-5-3430(D)).

**Lights at night**
A white front light visible from 500 feet and a red rear reflector; a red rear light is allowed and strongly recommended.

**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 3 years. Claims against the state, a county or a city usually have a 2-year deadline and damage caps.

**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.