



The Michigan Motorcycle Law Newsletter

Buckfire & Buckfire, P.C.

MICHIGAN'S TOP RATED MOTORCYCLE LAWYERS

Volume 2, Issue 3

June 2013

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Passing of House Bill 4612 Will Be Detrimental To Motorcyclists	2
June 17th is Ride To Work Day	3
What to Do When You Go Down on Your Motorcycle	3
FREE Consultation on ANY Legal Issue	3
Our Current Cases of Interest	4
Recent Settlements	4
Free Motorcycle Helmet Laws App	4
Free Motorcycle Accident Book	4



Upcoming Motorcycle Events/Rides

- June 23: ABATE Reg 12 Annual Poker Run. South Lawton. Contact: 269-330-1542.
- June 26 - 29: Sturgis Fest 2013. Sturgis. Contact: www.sturgisfestmi.com.
- June 28—29: Thunder on the Grand Barry Expo Fair Grounds. Hastings. Contact: 517-282-9846.

Before Filing a Michigan Motorcycle Accident Lawsuit

Hopefully you have never had to go through the experience of filing a motorcycle accident lawsuit. However, if an unfortunate accident happens and you find yourself in the situation, filing a lawsuit does not have to be scary or costly endeavor if you have the right attorney by your side.

In fact, many individuals may not be aware, but a good attorney is one that begins working even BEFORE you file the lawsuit. To explain in further detail, our motorcycle accident attorneys are sharing with you what they do before even filing a lawsuit on behalf of one of their injured clients. These are just a few of our many efforts that goes into filing a claim.

1. We perform a careful investigation of the crash, including a thorough investigation of all witness statements, photographs, and any other pieces of evidence that will prove that the other driver was in fact at fault for the accident.

2. We collect and obtain all police reports and accident reports. Often times, we will hire a traffic accident reconstructionist expert to assist in the explanation of how the collision happened.

3. We obtain all of your medical records to prove the serious nature of your injury which will assist us in establishing the amount of compensation that you should receive for your accident related injuries. We will also talk to your friends and family members to see how the accident has impacted your life.

All of this information can be very valuable and can assist in getting the best possible settlement for your Michigan motorcycle accident. In fact, if an attorney is NOT doing this for you, we guarantee you will not get as much as you deserve for your lawsuit.

At the law firm of Buckfire & Buckfire, P.C. we will perform the entire investigation under our No Fee Promise, which means there are no legal fees or costs to you unless you settle or win. Our track record of substantial verdicts and settlements in motorcycle accident cases is the best testament to our performance and that is why we are willing to handle cases without the client ever paying a penny until we win their case.

The Passing of House Bill 4612 Will Be Detrimental To Motorcyclists



This article was written by Buckfire Attorney Dondi Vesprini (pictured to the left). Dondi has been a licensed attorney in the State of Michigan since 1999. He is recognized as an expert in cases involving motorcycle accidents. Dondi is a member of the Board of Directors of ABATE of Michigan and also frequently meets with both legislators and lobbyists regarding legislation affecting injured motorcyclists. Look for Dondi's article in each issue where he will discuss important issues affecting motorcyclists.

If anyone has any questions or if Dondi can be of legal assistance to you or anyone you know who has been injured in a motorcycle accident, please do not hesitate to contact Dondi via phone at (248) 569-4646 or via email at [Dondi at Dondi@buckfirelaw.com](mailto:Dondi@Dondi@buckfirelaw.com)

As many people are aware, there is currently a bill pending in Lansing that, if passed into law will perform an unprecedented hatchet job on the benefits that persons injured in a motor vehicle accident are currently entitled to. This No Fault "deform" effort is spearheaded by the insurance industry and is known as House Bill 4612.

In the early part of May, the House Insurance Committee held multiple days of hearings to take testimony from various persons and organizations offering support or opposition to the bill. Despite significant and compelling appearances and testimony from many injured persons, attorneys, and those from the medical community in strong opposition to the bill, the Committee voted to pass the bill and move it forward in the legislative process on its way to becoming law, with the next step being consideration for passage by the House.

It is critical to the well-being of the citizens of our State that this bill be defeated. The bill has multiple and unprecedented caps and limitations on medical benefits and restrictions on treatment and services available to people who are injured in accidents involving motor vehicles. Some of the highlights (or more fittingly "lowlights") of the bill are as follows:

- ⇒ The types of medical benefits available are being redefined from reasonable charges incurred for reasonably necessary products, services and accommodation for an injured persons care, recovery or rehabilitation" under the current law to "reasonable charges incurred for medically appropriate products, services and accommodations for the injured persons care, recovery, or rehabilitation" under the bill.
- ⇒ Under the current law, injured persons are entitled to lifetime unlimited medical benefits. Under the bill, injured motorcyclists medical benefits are capped at a maximum of \$250,000.00.
- ⇒ Under the current law, friends and family are entitled to be paid by the insurer for attendant care they provide to an injured person (ie, assisting with bathing, grooming, cooking, etc.), and they are to be paid an hourly rate similar to that being paid to a home health aide in their county. Under the bill, such attendant care is limited to 56 hours per week and to a rate of no more than \$15.00 per hour.
- ⇒ For attendant care provided by a non-friend or family member (ie, an agency), after 30 days, the injured person must pay a 20% co-pay up to a maximum of \$200.00 per month.

It is no secret that more times than not, when a motorcycle is involved in an accident with a motor vehicle, the motor vehicle wins leaving the motorcyclist with multiple costly medical bills and in need of assistance at home. For this reason, while the proposed changes represent a damaging blow to all people injured in an accident, it is especially so to motorcyclists. A \$250,000.00 cap on a motorcyclists medical benefits is outrageous, unrealistic and insulting to the motorcycling community.

This is one bill that motorcyclists can stand together with the non-motorcycling community in an effort to defeat it. It is crucial that each and everyone contact their legislators and voice your opposition to this bill. Our medical future depends on it.

June 17th is Ride To Work Day

June 17th of this year has been designated as Ride To Work Day. This is the 22nd year for this annual event and is coordinated by the non-profit organization, Ride to Work.

In the United States alone, over 80 million cars and trucks are used for daily commute, and only about 200,000 motorcycle and scooters are a usual part of this mix. On Ride to Work Day a much higher number of American's 8,000,000 motorcycle are ridden to work. In fact, the organization is estimating that it will be the largest-ever event compared to previous years, with over 1,000,000 riders commuting to work. For more information about the event and Ride to Work visit www.ridetowork.org

FUN FACT: Studies have proven that across equal distances, commuting motorcycle riders can get to their destination much quicker, up to 20% less time than driving an automobile!

What To Do When You Go Down On Your Motorcycle

If you are riding and your bike goes down in traffic, human instinct will take over and odds are good that, if you can, you will try to get off the road to avoid being hit by a car. However, when you immediately get up and cross lanes of traffic, you **DRAMATICALLY** increase your odds of not surviving the original accident.

It is important that after being involved in an accident, and you go do down, to remember to stay with your bike. Do not immediately remove yourself from the scene, but instead wait. Wait until you know that you are physically able to move. Wait until it is safe to move off the road, and wait until you know what the traffic around you is going to do.

In addition, if you do go down, try to ride out the slide. Do not try to get up while you are sliding as that will cause more serious injury to you.



In addition to these safety tips, it is highly recommended that motorcyclists wear gloves when riding. This is because when a motorcyclist goes down, often times it is their hands that take the most impact, causing road rash. In fact, road rash is one of the most common resulting injuries from going down on a bike. If you do not prefer to wear gloves, try wearing fingerless gloves at the very least to prevent such injury.

FREE CONSULTATION on ANY Legal Issue

As you know, we specialize in Motorcycle Accidents, but the law firm of Buckfire & Buckfire, P.C. also has a team of top rated attorneys that specialize in all types of personal injury accident matters, including car accidents, bicycle accidents, dog bite injury, slip and fall, medical malpractice, nursing home abuse, wrongful death and more.

Our award winning attorneys are offering a **FREE No-Obligation Consultation** on ANY legal issue you may have. We will discuss your case with you and help you determine whether or not you need a lawyer. Even if it is something we do not handle, we will point you in the right direction and refer you to someone who can help. Contact Buckfire & Buckfire, P.C. toll-free at **(800) 606-1717** or email at info@buckfirelaw.com to schedule your **free consultation**.

MICHIGAN'S TOP MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT LAWYERS



25800 Northwestern Hwy, Ste. 890
Southfield, MI 48075

Phone: 248-569-4646
Toll: 800-606-1717
Fax: 248--569-6737
E-mail: info@buckfirelaw.com
www.BuckfireLaw.com

Have a friend who would also like to receive "The Michigan Motorcycle Law Newsletter"?

Just call or email Kathryn at 248-569-4646 or Kathryn@buckfirelaw.com with their contact information and we will add them to our mailing list!

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
MAIL WORKS II

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list call Kathryn at 248-569-4646 or email her at Kathryn@buckfirelaw.com

Our Current Cases of Interest

- A survivors loss lawsuit on behalf of a client whose husband was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident. The lawsuit seeks damages for the loss of her husbands companionship and services around the house, the loss of her husbands wages, and funeral expenses.
- A motorcycle accident lawsuit for a rider that was hit due to another drivers failure to see him on the road.

Recent Settlements

- \$1,100,000 Detroit, Michigan settlement for an experienced biker who suffered catastrophic injuries, including a brain injury and numerous bone fractures, when a truck forced him into oncoming traffic.
- \$142,500 settlement for a Michigan biker injured in a Sterling Heights accident. He suffered a wrist injury that required surgery and an injury to his knee.

**Taking a Bike Trip Across State Lines
or In Other Countries?**

You Need the **FREE** Motorcycle Helmet Laws App

For more information, visit

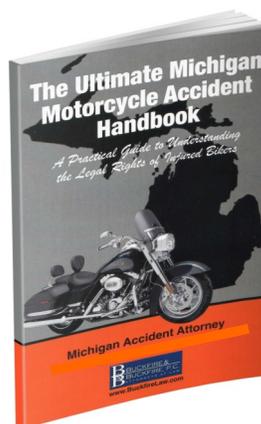
<http://bit.ly/MIMotorcycleAccidentLawyers>

To download the FREE App, go to iTunes or Google Play and search for "Motorcycle Helmet Laws"

FREE Motorcycle Accident Book

Your FREE Guide to Michigan Motorcycle Accident Cases

Warning: Do Not Speak to the Insurance Adjuster or Hire a Lawyer Until You Read This Free Book.



The Book reveals:

- How To Find The Best Lawyer For Your Case
- Who MUST Pay For Motorcycle Damage Claims
- How To Get The Best Money Settlement For Your Injuries
- Are You Entitled To Michigan No-Fault Insurance Benefits
- How To Get Your Medical Bills And Lost Wages Paid
- **AND MUCH MORE** including the **SECRET STRATEGIES** insurance companies will use to avoid paying YOU a fair settlement.

Request your book by calling (800) 606-1717 or visit

www.MichiganMotorcycleBook.com