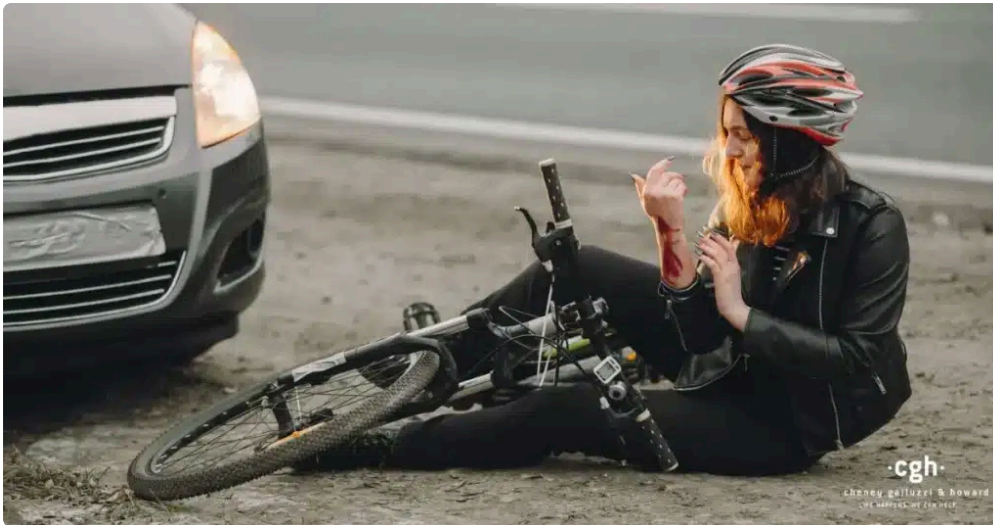




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Injury Lawyers  
IT'S MORE THAN MONEY.

**Who is at fault if you hit a cyclist in Denver?**

2701 Lawrence St. Suite 201 Denver, CO 80205      [cghlawfirm.com](http://cghlawfirm.com)      (303) 209-9395



A child on a bicycle is never just another traffic participant. A child is still learning balance, distance, risk, and the quiet assumptions adults make without thinking. That reality shapes every serious injury claim involving a young cyclist. When a driver turns across a bike lane, when a property owner leaves a dangerous path unrepaired, or when poor visibility turns a neighborhood ride into an emergency, the legal issues are only part of the story. The first concern is the child's health. The second is how the family will absorb the medical, financial, and emotional fallout that often lasts much longer than the first hospital visit.

This is where a Bicycle Accident Lawyer can make a meaningful difference. Cases involving injured children are not handled like ordinary adult injury claims. The damages are different, the timelines can be different, the settlement process often includes court oversight, and the long-term consequences have to be measured with unusual care. A scraped knee and a bent wheel are one thing. A fractured skull, dental trauma, growth plate injury, spinal damage, or a lingering fear of riding again is another.

Families are often thrown into this process with no preparation. One day they are making lunch or supervising homework. The next day they are sorting through ambulance records, insurance calls, damaged helmets, and a child who cannot sleep because the crash replays every time the room gets quiet. Legal help matters most when it brings order to that chaos.

## Why children's cycling injury cases require a different kind of legal analysis

Children are expected to make mistakes. The law generally recognizes that. A seven-year-old who wobbles near a driveway or misjudges a curb is not judged by the same standard as an experienced adult rider weaving through downtown traffic. That distinction can change how fault is evaluated, especially when an insurer tries to shift blame onto the child.

In practice, these cases often turn on details that seem small at first. How visible was the child? Was the bike appropriately sized? Was there a marked crossing? Did the driver slow near a school, park, or residential corner where children were likely to be present? Was the child riding with siblings or alone? Did the road design force a young rider into traffic? Did the vehicle have a blind spot issue, especially with SUVs or trucks that sit high and hide short riders from the driver's immediate view?

A seasoned Bicycle Accident Lawyer will usually look beyond the impact point. The real question is often whether the collision was foreseeable. Drivers owe a heightened duty of care in places where children predictably ride and cross. That includes neighborhoods, school zones, apartment complexes, cul-de-sacs, and park approaches. When a motorist claims, "I never saw the child," that statement does not necessarily help the defense. Sometimes it raises a more troubling point, they should have been looking more carefully in the first place.

## The injuries that change a childhood

Adults tend to focus first on **Bicycle Accident Lawyer** visible injuries. Broken arms, road rash, casts, stitches. Those matter, but pediatric cycling injuries often carry less obvious consequences. A concussion can affect school performance for months. A facial injury can mean years of dental and orthodontic treatment. A leg fracture involving a growth plate may need long-term orthopedic follow-up to monitor whether the injured limb develops normally.

Even when the child appears physically resilient, the emotional impact can be substantial. Some children become afraid of bicycles, roads, or even being outside alone. Others develop sleep problems, mood shifts, or an unusual

dependence on a parent after the crash. These symptoms can be dismissed by insurers as temporary distress, yet any parent who has watched a once-confident child freeze at the end of the driveway knows better.

That is one reason damage assessment in a child injury case is difficult. The full picture may not be visible within the first month. A lawyer handling these claims needs enough patience to let the medical story develop and enough judgment to know when immediate action is still necessary to preserve evidence.

## **What families should do in the first days after the crash**

The legal case starts forming almost immediately, even while the family is still in crisis. Memories shift quickly. Video footage gets deleted. Bikes are repaired or thrown away. Witnesses become hard to reach. At the same time, parents are juggling doctors, work absences, school calls, and a frightened child.

The most useful early steps are usually these:

1. Get complete medical evaluation, including follow-up care if symptoms change or a concussion is suspected.
2. Preserve the bicycle, helmet, clothing, and any damaged items exactly as they were after the crash.
3. Take photographs of injuries, the scene, traffic signs, road markings, and the bike from multiple angles.
4. Obtain the police or incident report and identify witnesses before their recollection fades.
5. Avoid giving detailed recorded statements to the other side's insurer before getting legal advice.

Those steps are simple, but they matter. I have seen cases where a cracked helmet told a far clearer story than a vague report written after dark. I have also seen families unintentionally weaken a good case because they let a well-meaning relative replace the bike or because they assumed the insurance adjuster was just "trying to help move things along."

## **Insurance companies often undervalue children's claims at the start**

A common pattern appears in many child bicycle injury cases. The insurer contacts the parent quickly, sounds sympathetic, and hints that the matter can be resolved with modest payment for emergency treatment and a little extra for inconvenience. That approach can be dangerous when the child's recovery is still unfolding.

Early offers are often based on incomplete medical information. They may ignore future therapy, follow-up imaging, dental reconstruction, scar revision, educational support, or the practical cost of a parent missing work to attend appointments. They also may fail to account for pain, emotional distress, and loss of normal childhood activities. Missing a summer baseball season or quitting a long-awaited cycling camp may not sound substantial to an adjuster reading a file, but it can be significant in a child's life and in a claim's value.

A Bicycle Accident Lawyer does more than negotiate a number. Good representation reframes the case so the insurer has to confront the full impact. That may mean collecting school attendance records, therapist notes, orthopedic opinions, future care estimates, and testimony from parents who can explain, concretely, how the child's daily life changed after the crash.

## **Fault is not always as straightforward as it looks**

Some cycling accidents involving children are clearly caused by a driver. A speeding car enters a crosswalk. A distracted driver backs out of a driveway. A delivery van opens a door into a bike path. Those are relatively direct cases.

Others are more layered. A child may have been riding on a sidewalk because the road felt unsafe. The bike may not have had working lights at dusk. A parked truck may have blocked visibility for everyone involved. A property manager may have left a gate swinging open across a shared path. A municipality may have allowed a known hazard, such as deep pavement breaks or ponding water, to remain in place. Sometimes there are multiple defendants, and each one tries to point at someone else.

That complexity is one reason prompt investigation matters. Skid marks fade, weather changes the scene, and surveillance footage from nearby homes or businesses can disappear within days. In one neighborhood crash scenario that often comes up, a child is struck near the mouth of a subdivision by a driver making a quick turn while watching cross traffic rather than the sidewalk area. By the time the family is ready to focus on the legal side, the tire marks are gone and the nearby camera footage has looped over itself. Evidence does not wait for grief to settle.

## **How a lawyer proves the child's losses over time**

In adult injury claims, damages can often be estimated from wage loss, treatment cost, and recovery period. With children, the analysis is less mechanical. Most young cyclists do not have income records. Their losses show up in other ways, through interrupted development, altered routines, and medical needs that may last into adolescence.

A strong claim often includes close attention to several categories of harm:

| Type of loss | What it can include in a child cycling case | |---|---| | Medical expenses | emergency care, surgery, follow-up visits, therapy, medication, imaging | | Future care | orthopedic monitoring, counseling, dental work, scar treatment, assistive devices | | Pain and suffering | physical pain, sleep disruption, activity limitations, recovery burden | | Emotional harm | fear of riding, anxiety near traffic, regression, loss of confidence | | Parent losses | time off work, transportation to appointments, added caregiving demands |

Numbers in these cases should be grounded and defensible. If a physician cannot yet say whether a growth plate injury will affect future development, the claim should [Bicycle Accident Lawyer CGH Injury Lawyers](#) not pretend certainty. It should explain the risk, the need for monitoring, and the reasonable costs associated with that uncertainty. Good lawyering here is not exaggeration. It is disciplined forecasting based on what medicine can honestly support.

## **Court approval may be required for a child's settlement**

Parents are often surprised to learn that resolving a child's injury claim can involve more than signing a release. In many jurisdictions, settlements for minors require court approval, especially when the amount is substantial. The purpose is to protect the child's interests. The court may review the terms, attorney fees, medical payments, and how the funds will be held until the child reaches adulthood or another approved age.

This process can feel formal, but it serves an important function. It reduces the risk of an unfair settlement and creates a record that the child's rights were considered carefully. Depending on local rules, funds may be placed in a blocked account, a trust, or a structured arrangement. The best option depends on the child's needs, the settlement amount, and whether future care costs are expected before adulthood.

This is another area where experience matters. A Bicycle Accident Lawyer handling a child's case should be able to explain not just how to reach settlement, but how to secure approval in a way that protects the recovery and avoids preventable delays.

# **The role of helmets, supervision, and difficult conversations about parental choices**

Some of the hardest moments in these cases have little to do with traffic law. They involve guilt. Parents ask whether they should have insisted on a different route, walked with the child, replaced an older helmet sooner, or refused permission to ride at all. Defense lawyers and insurers sometimes exploit that feeling by raising questions about supervision or safety gear.

Those issues can matter, but they do not automatically defeat a claim. A child without a helmet can still have a strong case if a negligent driver caused the crash. At the same time, helmet use may affect how certain head injury damages are argued. The legal impact depends on state law, the child's age, and the specific injuries involved. The same is true for supervision. A parent not standing at the curb does not excuse a motorist from driving carelessly through a residential block where children are known to ride.

This is one area where plainspoken legal advice is essential. Families need honest analysis, not false reassurance. If there is a weakness in the case, it should be identified early and addressed with facts, expert review, and realistic strategy.

## **When the crash involves a hit-and-run or an uninsured driver**

Children are especially vulnerable in hit-and-run bicycle collisions because they may not be able to describe the vehicle accurately. They remember color, noise, or fear more than license plate numbers. When the driver flees or has no insurance, parents often assume there is no meaningful path forward. That is not always true.

Auto policies in the household may contain uninsured or underinsured motorist coverage that applies even though the child was on a bicycle, not in a car. The wording varies by policy and state, so the details need careful review. There may also be other sources of coverage if a negligent third party contributed to the crash, such as a commercial vehicle owner, a property insurer, or a municipal entity in a roadway defect case.

These claims require speed and persistence. Notice deadlines can be short, especially if a public body is involved. A lawyer should move quickly to identify every potentially available policy before the family accepts the insurer's first answer.

## **A lawyer's practical job is often larger than the lawsuit**

Families sometimes imagine personal injury representation as courtroom speeches and settlement demands. In child bicycle cases, much of the most valuable work is quieter. It is organizing records from multiple providers. It is making sure a pediatric specialist's opinion gets into the file before negotiations start. It is stopping an adjuster from pressuring parents for a rushed recorded statement. It is preserving a helmet for expert inspection. It is speaking with a school about documentation when a concussion leads to absences or academic accommodations.

Good lawyers also help families pace the case. Not every claim should be settled quickly. Not every claim should be litigated aggressively from day one either. There is judgment involved. If liability is clear but the child's prognosis is uncertain, waiting may be wise. If evidence is at risk or the defense is already denying fault, filing suit earlier may protect the case.

That practical judgment tends to separate experienced counsel from firms that treat every bike collision as interchangeable. A child with a mild forearm fracture and full recovery may need efficient, focused resolution. A child with a brain injury, permanent scarring, or orthopedic complications needs a far more deliberate approach.

# Questions parents should ask before hiring a Bicycle Accident Lawyer

Choosing counsel in the middle of a crisis is difficult. Parents are tired, worried, and vulnerable to marketing. A polished website does not tell you whether the lawyer understands pediatric injuries, local court approval rules, or how to document developmental consequences months after the collision.

A useful conversation with any prospective lawyer should cover a few points:

1. Have you handled injury claims involving children on bicycles, not just general car accident cases?
2. Who will manage the file day to day, the lawyer you meet or a case manager you never speak with?
3. How do you evaluate future medical needs when the child is still healing?
4. What happens if the insurer disputes fault or blames the child?
5. How are minor settlements approved and protected in this jurisdiction?

Those questions reveal a lot. Clear, direct answers usually indicate real experience. Vague promises about “maximum recovery” usually do not.

## Timing matters, even though parents need breathing room

Every state has its own deadlines for filing claims, and cases involving minors can have special rules. Some deadlines may be extended because the injured person is a child. Others are not. Claims against cities, counties, school districts, or other public entities often have strict notice requirements that arrive long before a normal lawsuit deadline.

That is why families should not wait for perfect clarity before getting legal advice. Early consultation does not mean immediate litigation. It means preserving options. An attorney can identify deadlines, send preservation letters, collect reports, and monitor the child’s treatment while the family focuses on recovery.

This balance matters. Parents deserve space to care for their child without being pushed into a legal sprint. But waiting too long can hand the other side advantages that are impossible to reverse later.

## The real value of legal help after a child’s bicycle accident

When a child is injured while cycling, the family’s world narrows fast. Every decision becomes immediate. Which specialist? Which medication? Can the child go back to school? Will they ever feel comfortable riding again? Legal representation should widen that world again. It should reduce pressure, preserve evidence, and create a path toward financial stability while the child heals.

A Bicycle Accident Lawyer is not there only to file paperwork or demand compensation. The deeper role is to protect a child’s future from being discounted in the aftermath of a preventable crash. That means seeing past the emergency room discharge papers, past the insurer’s early talking points, and past the understandable parental urge to put the whole thing behind them as quickly as possible.

Some children recover fully and move on with little lasting disruption. Others carry the effects for years. The challenge is that, at the beginning, no family knows which path they are on. Careful legal help gives them room to find out, without sacrificing the child’s rights before the full story is known.

CGH Injury Lawyers

2701 Lawrence St Suite 201

Denver, CO 80205, United States

Phone: +1 720-669-8062

## **FAQ About Bicycle Accident Lawyer**

### **Who is at fault if a car hits a bicycle?**

Fault depends on the evidence and the traffic rules that applied to the collision. A driver, cyclist, or another party may share responsibility. Police reports, witness accounts, video, and the physical evidence can help establish what happened. A collision with a car does not automatically determine legal fault.

### **Can you sue someone for hitting you on a bike?**

You may have a claim when another person's negligent conduct causes your injuries and losses. The available evidence, applicable deadlines, insurance coverage, and any shared fault affect your options. A lawyer can review the circumstances and explain whether an insurance claim or lawsuit is appropriate; compensation is not guaranteed.

### **What percentage does an injury lawyer usually take?**

There is no single percentage that applies to every injury case. Many lawyers use a contingency fee based on a share of the recovery, with the terms stated in a written agreement. Ask how the percentage is calculated, whether it changes during litigation, and how case expenses are handled before signing.