1Charlotte Injury Lawyers Addresses Cyclist Fatality Cases

August 28, 2026

CHARLOTTE, NC - August 28, 2026 -
Detectives with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Major Crash Investigation Unit investigated a fatal crash involving a bicyclist in the Metro Division in May 2025, one of multiple CMPD bicycle fatality investigations reported in Charlotte during the 2024 to 2025 period. In response to these reported crashes, 1Charlotte Injury Lawyers has outlined the legal challenges that Charlotte cyclists and their families encounter under North Carolina's contributory negligence rule.

Among the reported incidents, William Sterling Yoder, 73, died after his bicycle collided with a tractor-trailer at the intersection of Woodlawn Road and Park Road in south Charlotte near the Park Road Shopping Center at approximately 2 p.m. According to CMPD, speed and impairment were not suspected as contributing factors, leaving intersection geometry, cyclist visibility, and right-of-way compliance among the reported areas of investigation.

An earlier reported fatality illustrates how compliance factors can affect a claim. On June 12, 2024, Mihael

Stegne, 58, was pronounced deceased at the scene of a cyclist crash on the 9200 block of Steele Creek Road in Charlotte's Steele Creek Division after being struck by a vehicle while crossing outside the designated crosswalk. According to the CMPD Major Crash Investigation Unit's initial report, Mr. Stegne was not wearing a helmet and was crossing outside the crosswalk. Under North Carolina's contributory negligence standard, factors such as these may reduce or bar a claim, though the effect depends on the specific facts and applicable legal doctrines.

North Carolina applies a contributory negligence rule under which a plaintiff found even partially at fault may be barred from recovery. According to attorneys at 1Charlotte Injury Lawyers, insurance adjusters representing at-fault drivers commonly examine several factors in cyclist claims, including whether the cyclist was wearing a helmet, whether the cyclist was within a marked crosswalk or bike lane, and whether required lighting was present for nighttime riding. North Carolina's helmet statute applies to riders under 16; for adult riders, the absence of a helmet is generally raised under the separate legal question of failure to mitigate damages rather than as automatic contributory negligence, and courts weigh such arguments against the specific circumstances and available exceptions.

According to NCDOT crash data compiled from the state's reporting system, Charlotte recorded 96 bicycle crashes and 381 pedestrian collisions in a recent reporting year. NCDOT's Walk Bike NC safety data indicate that North Carolina records an estimated 16 to 20 cyclist fatalities annually in collisions with motor vehicles. Continued infrastructure expansion through the Charlotte Future 2040 plan and the Little Sugar Creek Greenway network has increased cyclist activity on corridors that were designed primarily for motor vehicle traffic. Guidance from a 1Charlotte bicycle accident lawyer emphasizes that families who act promptly can help preserve evidence that may otherwise disappear from busy commercial corridors within days.

A spokesperson for 1Charlotte Injury Lawyers addressed how these factors operate together. "The compliance factors adjusters review, including helmet use, crosswalk position, and nighttime lighting, are often evaluated at the same time, so a cyclist who was fully in the crosswalk with proper lighting may still face a helmet-based argument, even though state law only requires helmets for riders under 16," the spokesperson said. "A prompt evidence response, including intersection camera footage, witness canvasses at locations such as Woodlawn Road and Steele Creek Road, and documentation of cyclist equipment, helps ensure a fuller record before an at-fault driver's insurer frames the account." The work of a Charlotte bicycle accident lawyer often centers on reconstructing crash conditions before physical and video evidence is lost.

1Charlotte Injury Lawyers is a network of personal injury law firms serving bicycle accident victims, car accident clients, and other injury clients throughout Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, and the surrounding region. The firm handles bicycle accidents, car accidents, truck accidents, motorcycle accidents, Uber

collisions, and pedestrian accidents.

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