

Accident advice for bikers...

As the weather warms up and more local bikers are out and about on the roads, the number of accidents involving motorcycles increases. Neil John, a solicitor with King's Lynn firm Ward Gethin and a member of the BMF Biker Legal Line panel, is both biker and accident claim specialist. He would like to give fellow motorcyclist a few tips.

The 5 golden rules after any accident are:

1. Get every party's name, address and registration number
2. Gather as much physical evidence as you can – such as photos of the road surface or the other vehicle
3. Take the name and address of any witness
4. If you are injured in any way, call the police out to the scene, and call a specialist biking solicitor as soon as possible after the accident
5. If the other driver leaves the scene without giving you his or her name and address, report it to the police straight away.

In legal terms, blame is known as 'liability'. If you can prove that someone else was liable for an accident then it is their insurers who will have to pay for repairs to your bike and financial compensation due to you for your injuries and expenses incurred as a result of the accident. "Sorry mate, I didn't see you" is an all too common phrase. But liability is not always this clear cut, and a 'split' of liability often arises, with



both parties accepting a proportion of the blame for the accident.

If you are injured in an accident caused by an uninsured driver, or in a hit-and-run where the driver is not traced, you may still be able to recover some money. The Motor Insurers Bureau is effectively the safety net to ensure that people injured in these circumstances may be able to receive at least some compensation.

Longer articles on various motorcycle accident topics including Split Liability, the Motor Insurers Bureau, and Accidents Overseas can be found on Ward Gethin's website at www.wardgethin.co.uk or for individual advice contact Neil on 01553 660033.

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