

Hit And Run Crashes Are On The Rise In Florida

by Amy Spanos • August 1, 2017



We've all seen it play out in the news; a hit and run driver flees the scene of an accident, but with modern technology, someone is always watching. Someone is always recording, taking photos, or a witness to the crash, and more times than not, the driver that fled the scene is found guilty of not only the accident but also now the additional crime of not staying at the site of the incident.

Even though penalties have increased for leaving the scene of an accident, Florida is unfortunately still seeing a rise in crashes altogether, and with that number, the individuals fleeing the scene escalates as well.

When someone is involved in damaging property, hitting a pedestrian, or an auto accident, they should seriously contemplate their situation and consider that it is their legal responsibility to stay, report the accident, help their fellow citizens that are injured, and take accountability. If they choose to flee, the consequences are much higher than they were just a few years ago. This is due in part because the state of Florida has increased the penalties for fleeing the scene.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol's website and current campaign, called *Stay At The Scene*, these are the following listed penalties regarding leaving an accident:

HIT AND RUN PENALTIES

Leaving the scene of the crash with:

PROPERTY DAMAGE	Second Degree Misdemeanor Up to 60 days in prison and \$500 fine
INJURIES	Second or third degree felony Revoked license for at least 3 years Up to five years in prison and \$5,000 fine
FATALITIES	First degree felony Revoked license for at least three years Mandatory minimum of 4 years in prison, up to 30 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine

Whether or not you are a cyclist or pedestrian hit by a car, a driver that incurred injuries, or a property owner that suffered damages, if you or someone you know was involved in an accident, you should consult with a personal injury attorney.

If the victim has suffered damages such as lost wages, medical expenses, property costs, or pain and suffering an attorney will help you navigate the claims involved to get your insurance carrier to award you a higher amount. If the "hit and run" driver was caught, you will be able to sue for gross negligence and possibly punitive damages depending on your particular case.

Insurance companies are not the enemy, but they certainly don't have your back in these types of circumstances. Typically, insurance carriers are delegated direction from big corporations, not the policyholder. They will provide you with a point of contact that is trained to get you to agree to the lowest amount possible regarding your claim. Hiring an experienced attorney is critical for you to get what you justifiably deserve.

The Fort Lauderdale Personal Injury Attorney Group are seasoned lawyers that have awarded millions of dollars to their clients over the years that have been wrongfully harmed, suffered damages or were involved in a hit and run accident.

They will provide personal contact and attention for their clients. Their injury attorneys will guide you through the legal process and provide you with all of the necessary information needed to help you achieve a positive outcome.

Their skillful attorneys, seasoned investigators, and knowledgeable support staff all work together diligently for you — their client. They tirelessly prepare every case as if it were going to trial. Because of this, Florida Law Group has earned a reputation as competent personal injury attorneys and effective litigators and trial lawyers.

To learn more about the Florida Highway Patrol's Campaign, please visit flhsmv.gov/stayatthescene