

Child Injury Laws *Blog*

Its Time For Illinois To Recognize The Dangers Associated With Bike-Dooring Accidents

By **Jonathan Rosenfeld** on June 30, 2011

Only recently have states and municipalities recognized the disastrous consequences **dooring-accidents can have on bicyclists** in urban areas.

Thankfully, many cities-- such as Chicago-- have recognized the importance of preventing these injuries by incorporating ordinances to protect cyclists from the unavoidable harm caused when a car door is quickly flung open in front of them.

According to Chicago Municipal Code: 9-80-035- Opening and closing vehicle doors

No person shall open the door of a vehicle on the side available to moving traffic unless and until it is reasonably safe to do so, and can be done without interfering with the movement of other traffic, nor shall any person leave a door open on the side of a vehicle available to moving traffic for a period of time longer than necessary to load or unload passengers. Added Coun. J. 3-12-08, p. 22781, § 2

By some accounts, **dooring-related bike accidents** account for more than 15% of bicycle injuries.

However, the real impact of dooring incidents on bicyclists in Illinois will likely remain relatively unknown due to the fact that the Illinois Department of Transportation, the agency responsible for capturing the data, continues keep dooring incidents from their bike accident calculations due to the fact that most accidents happen when cars are stopped.

Jonathan Rosenfeld offers legal services relating to: birth injuries, medical malpractice, day care abuse, foster care abuse, swimming pool injuries, automobile accidents, school bus accidents, dog bites, food poisoning, product liability, amusement park accidents and clergy abuse. For more information please visit Child Injury Laws Blog (<http://www.childinjurylaws.com/>) or call Jonathan directly at (888) 424-5757. (www.rosenfeldinjurylawyers.com.)

As a **lawyer** who has worked on a number of bicycle-dooring cases, I feel that its important for legislators in more rural areas to become aware of both the frequency and the severity of dooring-related injury cases.

According to bike crash statistics published in a Chicago Tribune **article**, "Bikers call for state to count 'dooring' accidents", the number of dooring-related bike crashes continues to rise with 76 incidents reported in 2010 and 62 in 2009 in the Chicagoland area.

Hopefully, the additional publicity of door-related bike accidents will cause both legislators and riders to take note of this growing problem facing bike riders of all ages.

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