## Port Charlotte Accident Highlights School Transportation Risks By: Carmen Dellutri

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A recent bus accident involving Port Charlotte students is every parent's worst nightmare. According to a Florida Highway Patrol report, a car driving the wrong way on interstate 10, crashed into the charter bus carrying six high school students. One student was seriously injured.

The <u>Port Charlotte bus accident</u> comes on the heels of a new report by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) that examined school transportation-related accidents. The NHTSA defines a "school transportationrelated crash" as a crash which involves, either directly or indirectly, a school bus body vehicle, or a non-school bus functioning as a school bus, transporting children to or from school or school-related activities.

The <u>NHTSA study</u> found that 1,351 people have died in school transportation-related crashes since 2002, which is an average of 135 fatalities per year. Occupants of school transportation vehicles accounted for 7 percent of the fatalities, and nonoccupants (pedestrians, bicyclists, etc.) accounted for 21 percent of the fatalities. The report highlights that pedestrian accidents are far more common that bus crashes. Below are several additional findings of note:

- Overall, 40 percent of the 123 school-aged pedestrians (younger than 19) killed in crashes were 5 to 7 years old.
- More school-age pedestrians have been killed between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. than any other times of day.
- From 2002 to 2011, among the 95 occupants killed in school transportation vehicles, 41 were drivers and 54 were passengers.
- Among the 236 pedestrians killed in school transportation-related crashes, 192 were struck by school vehicles and 43 were struck by other vehicles.

The <u>Dellutri Law Group</u> is focused on making bad situations better and putting lives back together. If you or someone you love has been seriously injured in a **Port Charlotte accident** caused by someone else's negligence, you may be entitled to compensation.

To learn more about your legal options, contact our experienced <u>Port Charlotte</u> <u>injury attorneys</u> for a free consultation.