

# What to Do If Injured on Public Transportation in Louisiana

OPELOUSAS, LA, UNITED STATES, January 31, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Public transportation provides an essential service to residents and visitors throughout Louisiana, offering buses, streetcars, and other transit options to help people travel efficiently. While generally safe, accidents and injuries can occur due to operator negligence, poor maintenance, or other hazardous conditions. Understanding the legal steps to take after an injury on public transportation can help individuals protect their rights and seek appropriate remedies. [William P. Morrow](#), a lawyer at [Morrow Law Firm](#) in Opelousas, Louisiana, explains the legal considerations for those injured while using public transit.



## Common Causes of Public Transportation Injuries

Public transit systems, including city buses, streetcars, and shuttle services, are subject to strict safety regulations, but accidents still happen. Common causes of injuries include:

**Sudden Stops and Collisions** – A transit vehicle may come to an abrupt stop or be involved in an accident, causing passengers to fall or suffer impact injuries.

**Slip and Fall Hazards** – Wet floors, uneven steps, or poorly maintained platforms may lead to slip and fall accidents.

**Driver Negligence** – Operator errors such as distracted driving, speeding, or failing to follow traffic laws can put passengers at risk.

**Defective Equipment** – Faulty doors, broken handrails, or malfunctioning seats can contribute to injuries.

**Assault or Security Failures** – In some cases, inadequate security measures on transit vehicles or at stations can result in harm to passengers.



Understanding legal rights and the steps to take after an injury can help individuals navigate the claims process”

*William P. Morrow*

Determining the cause of an accident is an important step in understanding liability and potential legal claims.

### Immediate Steps to Take After a Public Transportation Injury

When an injury occurs on public transportation, taking the right steps can impact the ability to seek compensation:

Report the Incident – Notify the bus driver, train operator,

or transit staff as soon as possible. If law enforcement responds, request a copy of the incident report.

Seek Medical Attention – Even if injuries appear minor, a medical evaluation can document any harm sustained and establish a connection to the incident.

Collect Evidence – Take photographs of the scene, any hazardous conditions, and visible injuries. If possible, gather contact information from witnesses.

Obtain Transportation Records – Note details such as the bus or train number, route, and time of the incident.

Avoid Making Statements – Refrain from signing documents or making statements to transit authorities or insurance representatives without legal guidance.

Following these steps ensures that relevant information is documented, which may be useful in pursuing a claim.

### Liability in Public Transportation Accidents

Public transportation systems operate under different legal standards than private vehicles. In many cases, municipal or state transit authorities oversee public transit operations, meaning that claims may involve government entities.

Potentially liable parties in a public transportation injury case include:

Transit Agencies – If an accident results from operator negligence, poor vehicle maintenance, or inadequate safety measures, the agency responsible for the service may be liable.

Third-Party Drivers – If another vehicle causes a collision with a bus or streetcar, the driver of that vehicle may be responsible.

Manufacturers and Maintenance Contractors – If a defective part or poor maintenance contributed to an injury, liability may extend to manufacturers or service providers.

Because government agencies are often involved in public transit cases, different legal procedures may apply compared to standard personal injury claims.

### Filing a Claim Against a Government Entity

Claims involving public transportation injuries often require filing a notice with the responsible government agency within a specified timeframe. In Louisiana, public entities may have different rules regarding claims, and failure to meet deadlines may impact the ability to seek

compensation.

Key considerations when pursuing a claim against a transit authority include:

**Shorter Filing Deadlines** – Claims against government entities often have shorter deadlines than standard personal injury cases.

**Liability Limits** – Government agencies may have legal caps on the amount of compensation that can be recovered.

**Administrative Procedures** – Before filing a lawsuit, some claims must go through an administrative process with the transit authority.

Understanding these requirements is essential to ensuring that all necessary steps are taken within the required timeframe.

### Types of Compensation Available

Individuals injured on public transportation may be eligible for compensation, including:

**Medical Expenses** – Costs for emergency treatment, hospital visits, and ongoing care.

**Lost Wages** – Compensation for time missed from work due to the injury.

**Pain and Suffering** – Damages related to physical pain, emotional distress, and reduced quality of life.

The specific damages available depend on the circumstances of the accident and the severity of the injuries.

### Challenges in Public Transportation Injury Cases

Claims involving public transportation injuries may be more complex than standard personal injury cases due to:

**Government Protections** – Some public entities have legal protections that limit their liability.

**Multiple Responsible Parties** – Cases may involve both the transit agency and third-party drivers, requiring a detailed investigation.

**Evidence Collection** – Surveillance footage, driver logs, and maintenance records may be critical in proving negligence.

Given these challenges, individuals seeking compensation after a public transportation injury should ensure that all relevant evidence is preserved and that claims are filed in accordance with legal deadlines.

### Preventing Public Transit Injuries

Public transportation agencies have a duty to maintain safe conditions for passengers. Steps that can help reduce injury risks include:

**Proper Driver Training** – Ensuring that transit operators receive adequate training on safe driving practices.

**Regular Vehicle Maintenance** – Conducting inspections and repairs to prevent mechanical

failures.

Clear Safety Procedures – Implementing policies to address spills, slippery surfaces, and other potential hazards.

Adequate Security Measures – Providing surveillance, lighting, and personnel to improve passenger safety.

Passengers can also take precautions by using handrails, remaining seated when possible, and staying alert to potential hazards.

## Conclusion

"Public transportation systems serve thousands of passengers daily, but accidents and injuries can occur due to operator negligence, hazardous conditions, or third-party actions.

Understanding legal rights and the steps to take after an injury can help individuals navigate the claims process," notes Morrow. Filing deadlines, government liability protections, and the involvement of multiple parties can complicate claims, making proper documentation and legal guidance essential.

## About Morrow Law Firm

Morrow Law Firm, based in Opelousas, Louisiana, represents individuals in matters related to injury claims and legal liability. The firm is led by William P. Morrow, John Michael Morrow, Jr., and Stephen M. Morrow, providing legal services across the region.

Morgan Thomas  
Rhino Digital, LLC  
+1 504-875-5036

[email us here](#)

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