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Children Motorcycle Passenger Protection

PROBLEM: Language in Florida Statutes regarding children and the use of motorcycles is insufficient. Currently, a person of any age, even a young child, may ride as a passenger on any motorcycle or moped on any roadway, street or highway in Florida. 316.2085 Riding on motorcycles or mopeds.

BACKGROUND: From 2011 to 2018, 151 children age 10 or younger were injured or killed as passengers in motorcycle crashes in Florida. Although children five years of age or younger are required to use crash-tested, federally-approved child restraint devices in motor vehicles in Florida (Florida Statute 316.613), there is no child motorcycle passenger protection law. In 2016, motorcyclist fatalities occurred nearly 28 times more frequently than passenger car occupant fatalities in traffic crashes per vehicle mile traveled ([NHTSA, 2018](#)), yet the Florida Statutes do not set minimum age requirements for passengers of motorcycles or mopeds traveling on Florida roadways, streets or highways.

SOLUTION: Motorcycle safety laws in five states (Arkansas, Hawaii, Louisiana, Texas and Washington) specify minimum age requirements for motorcycle passengers. Florida Statute 316.2085 (5) should specify that a child age 10 or younger may not ride as a passenger on any motorcycle or moped traveling on Florida roadways, streets or highways.

CALL TO ACTION AND SUPPORT: Child health advocates, law enforcement, doctors and researchers support this call to action



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News Excerpt: Jacksonville, Florida

5-year-old dies after scooter collides with car in Arlington

A 5-year-old boy, Noah Jarrett, passed away after a scooter collided with a car on Sunday night in the Arlington area of Jacksonville, according to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

Author: Sarah Kimbro, Brittany Dionne

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A 5-year-old boy, Noah Jarrett, passed away after a scooter collided with a car on Sunday night in the Arlington area of Jacksonville, according to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

Jarrett was the passenger on the scooter. According to JSO, the boy died shortly after he was transported to a local hospital. The accident happened at 7:40 p.m. at the intersection of Acme Street and Hare Avenue. Lt. Knecht said it was still light outside when the accident occurred.

The adult driver of scooter did not sustain injuries and the driver of the other car was not injured.

First Coast News asked Lt. Knecht if it's illegal for a 5-year-old child to be riding on a motor scooter. "That's something our detectives are looking into," said Lt. Knecht. He added that this is an unusual accident.

"It's not a good idea to have a young child, one that young, on a scooter whether it's in the day or at night," said Lt. Knecht.

Several witnesses on scene were speaking to investigators. Traffic homicide investigators were also there conducting their investigation. Stay with First Coast News for updates.



Woman, granddaughter critically injured when motorcycle crashes into home in Spring Hill



by: WFLA 8 On Your Side Staff

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SPRING HILL, Fla. (WFLA) – A woman and her granddaughter were critically injured when a motorcycle crashed into a home in Spring Hill on Thursday.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, the motorcycle was parked facing south on the northeast corner of Malcolm Avenue.

The driver, identified as Brenda Davis, 55, was waiting for the school bus to drop off her granddaughter.

After the child got on the motorcycle, Davis attempted to make a left turn from a complete stop to travel east onto Kimberly Avenue.

While turning left, the motorcycle accelerated too much for Davis to negotiate the curve, causing the vehicle to travel off the edge of the road.

The vehicle traveled across a driveway on Kimberly Avenue and struck the side of a home.

Both Davis and her granddaughter are in critical condition at Bayonet Point and St. Joseph's Children's Hospital.

Charges are pending against Davis.