



TENNESSEE MOTORCYCLE HANDBOOK



2017

Edition

**Tennessee Injury Lawyers
Share Tips to Keep You
Safe and Legal on the Road**

Written by Steve Karr and Jeff Levine

TENNESSEE MOTORCYCLE HANDBOOK

Tennessee Injury Lawyers Share Tips to Keep You Safe and Legal on the Road

If you're ready to hit the open roads of Tennessee, be sure you're equipped with the information you need:

- *Choose the best bike for you*
- *Select the right insurance policy*
- *Stay safe with a comprehensive motorcycle inspection checklist*
- *Comply with Tennessee laws to stay safe and avoid penalties*
- *Know exactly what to do in the event of an accident*
- *PLUS: A comprehensive motorcycle inspection checklist*
- *And much more!*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION <i>LESSONS LEARNED ALONG THE ROAD: 30 YEARS OF OWNING, RIDING, AND LOVING MOTORCYCLES</i>	3
PART I: SELECTING, MAINTAINING, AND SAFELY OPERATING YOUR MOTORCYCLE	11
SELECTING YOUR MOTORCYCLE	13
INSURANCE FOR YOUR MOTORCYCLE	19
Penalties for Riding Without Insurance in Tennessee	22
From the Flexer Law Blog:.....	23
What Motorcyclists in Tennessee Must Know About Insurance Coverage	23
MOTORCYCLE EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN TENNESSEE.....	27
GETTING YOUR MOTORCYCLE LICENSE	29
MOTORCYCLE LEARNER’S PERMIT	31
Forms of Driver’s Licenses	32
CLOTHING: PROPER RIDING ATTIRE.....	34
RIDING ATTIRE CHECKLIST:	35
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED BY TENNESSEE LAW.....	39
A WORD ABOUT HELMET REQUIREMENTS.....	41
PRE-RIDE INSPECTIONS	43
MORE RULES OF THE ROAD	48
PART II: TENNESSEE LAW AND SAFETY REGULATIONS	49
WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE PULLED OVER BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.....	51
IMPAIRED DRIVING	54
What happens if you have a second or third offense DUI?	58
Other Penalties Imposed by Conviction of DUI.....	59

A Final Word on Impaired Riding	59
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS (GUNS AND KNIVES).....	60
DUTY OF CARE OWED TO DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS	62
SAD FACTS: DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC	65
PART III: IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW	69
10 THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND AFTER AN ACCIDENT	71
APPENDIX A: ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF IDENTIFICATION	81
APPENDIX B: TENNESSEE WEAPON LAWS: TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED 39-17-1302 AND TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED 39-17-307	85
2010 Tennessee Code Title 39 - Criminal Offenses Chapter 17 - Offenses Against Public Health, Safety and Welfare Part 13 - Weapons 39-17-1302 - Prohibited weapons.....	86
2010 Tennessee Code Title 39 - Criminal Offenses Chapter 17 - Offenses Against Public Health, Safety and Welfare Part 3 - Disorderly Conduct and Riots 39-17-307 - Obstructing highway or other passageway.	89
APPENDIX C: DUTY OF CARE OWED TO MOTORCYCLE RIDERS - OPINION: <i>HODGE V. STATE OF TENNESSEE</i> M-2004-00137-COA-R3-CV.....	93



Choosing the right attire and equipment can provide you with a safer and more enjoyable ride.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED BY TENNESSEE LAW

As you've seen, there are no clothing requirements; however, there are equipment requirements as set out in Tennessee law. Here are a few things you must have on your bike or elsewhere while riding a motorcycle on Tennessee's roads and highways.

- Riders and passengers must ride on **permanent seats** intended for that purpose. You cannot have a passenger on your motorcycle that is not built to carry the passenger.
- You cannot carry a package or other article on your motorcycle that prevents you from keeping **both hands on the handlebars**.
- Your **headlights** must be on at all times during operation of your motorcycle.
- Tennessee Code Annotated 55-9-302 requires that you and any passenger on the motorcycle must wear a **crash helmet** that meets the federal standards as set out in 49-CFR-571.218 ("CFR" stands for Code