

George Naylor:

Just like with a lot of accidents, inattention on the part of the drivers often ends up being the cause of a pedestrian accident. In a downtown area, like we have in the city of Richmond, we have a lot of people crossing the crosswalks, cyclists, that sort of thing, and those folks are often overlooked by drivers who are really looking for other cars rather than pedestrians. So they do end up, unfortunately, being more frequent than we would like.

Not crossing in a crosswalk is not always fatal to a case. It's obviously better to cross in the crosswalk, but if there's no crosswalk available, obviously, people have to cross where they can. So it doesn't mean that they are not able to recover if they were not in a crosswalk. The driver's duties when encountering a pedestrian in the road are to exercise ordinary care to avoid striking the person, and if they should have seen the person and failed to avoid them, then there should be a case there.

Pedestrian accidents often result in more severe injuries, obviously, because it's a person's body being struck by the vehicle rather than another car, so they're lacking a layer of protection that could be afforded by the vehicle. So it's very important that they get the right treatment, and quite often, you end up with broken bones and that sort of thing that you wouldn't necessarily see in a minor car accident case. And typically with a pedestrian accident, we also end up with head injuries, so it's very important to see an attorney early on and make sure that the rights of the plaintiff are being protected.