

Hertz Uber Rental Accidents in Chicago Are Not Ordinary Rideshare Claims

How a Chicago Uber Rental Accident Lawyer Handles Claims When Hertz Owns the Vehicle

A [crash](#) involving an Uber driver in a Hertz rental can create a very different claim from an ordinary car accident or even a typical Uber wreck. The driver may be using a vehicle rented through Uber's Hertz program instead of a personally owned car. That means the case may involve the driver, Hertz as the vehicle owner, Uber's insurance structure, the rental agreement, and the timing of what the driver was doing in the app when the crash happened.

That difference matters because the first question isn't always just who caused the collision. At issue can also be whether the driver was offline, waiting for a ride request, on the way to pick someone up, or carrying a passenger. In a Hertz Uber rental accident, those details can affect which insurance coverage may respond, what records matter most, and how the claim gets investigated. A [Chicago Uber accident lawyer](#) handling this kind of case needs to know how rideshare claims change when the vehicle is part of a rental program instead of privately owned.

In Chicago and the nearby suburbs, those fights can become even harder. A [rideshare driver](#) in a Hertz rental may be moving between O'Hare, Midway, downtown hotels, River North, West Loop, Wrigleyville, and suburban pickup points in a single shift. Heavy traffic, airport rules, short-notice pickups, unfamiliar passengers, tollways, and long driving hours can all affect how the crash happened and how the claim is defended.

Does Hertz Rent To Uber Drivers and How Does Hertz Uber Work?

Yes. Hertz rents vehicles to approved Uber drivers through Uber's vehicle partnership program. Instead of using a personally owned car, the driver books a qualifying rental through Uber's vehicle marketplace or related Hertz-Uber program and completes the rental with Hertz. Uber describes the program as a way for drivers to get a ready-to-go car through a rental partner rather than buying or leasing one themselves.

In practical terms, the setup is straightforward. The driver qualifies to drive with Uber, reserves a vehicle through the Uber-Hertz arrangement, picks it up from a Hertz location, and uses that rental car to drive on the Uber platform. Uber's Hertz page describes the rentals as weekly, with flexible renewal options, and Hertz's Uber rental materials describe the program as a rideshare rental with its own eligibility requirements and terms.

That matters in an injury case because the driver is operating a vehicle owned by Hertz while working through the Uber app. The crash may therefore involve the driver's app status, Uber-related coverage, Hertz's role as owner of the vehicle, the rental terms, and any issues involving the vehicle itself. That is what makes an Uber Hertz rental accident different from a rideshare crash in a driver-owned car. This also affects Uber's claims that all of its drivers are "independent contractors" and not employees. The fact that Uber is helping facilitate the rental of a car – a necessary tool for a driver – reflects the real relationship between Uber and its drivers.

The App Status Can Change the Entire Claim

One of the most important facts in an Uber Hertz rental accident is what the driver was doing in the app when the crash happened. That question can affect what coverage may apply, what records matter most, and how aggressively insurers fight over responsibility. In a case involving a rented rideshare vehicle, app status is often one of the first facts that needs to be pinned down.

The most important app-status changes usually include:

- **Offline:** The driver wasn't using the Uber app for rideshare activity at the time of the crash and may have simply been driving the Hertz rental like any other vehicle.
- **Logged in and Waiting for a Ride Request:** The driver was active in the app and available to accept a trip, even though no passenger had been assigned yet.
- **En Route to Pick Up a Passenger:** The driver had accepted a trip and was on the way to the pickup location when the collision happened.
- **Transporting a Passenger:** The ride was already underway and the passenger was in the vehicle at the time of the crash.

Those aren't minor details. A crash that happens while the driver is waiting for a fare may be handled differently from a crash that happens while the driver is carrying a passenger. An injured person may know the Uber driver caused the wreck, but still get pulled into a fight over timing because the insurers want to argue about exactly what phase of app use was in effect.

That is why early investigation matters in a Chicago Uber rental accident. App records, ride history, GPS activity, and phone-based trip data can all help show what the driver was doing at the moment of impact. Without those records, the injured person may be left dealing with multiple entities that all have reasons to narrow the claim.

Who May Be Responsible in a Hertz Uber Rental Accident?

Who may be responsible in a Hertz Uber rental accident depends on who was hurt and what caused the crash. This kind of claim isn't limited to passengers or people in another vehicle. The

injured person may be the Uber driver, the passenger, a driver in another car, a bicyclist, or a pedestrian. That is why the liability analysis has to start with the facts of the crash, not with assumptions about who must be making the claim.

The possible targets in a serious Uber-Hertz rental accident claim may include:

- **Another Negligent Driver:** If another driver caused the crash, that driver may be responsible for injuries suffered by the Uber driver, the passenger, or anyone else hurt in the collision.
- **The Uber Driver:** If the Uber driver caused the wreck, the claim may belong to the passenger, another driver, a pedestrian, a bicyclist, or someone else injured in the crash.
- **An Insurer Covering the Rideshare Phase:** Uber has extensive insurance available and the amount of insurance available can vary a lot based on the individual facts of each case. This is a critical area where an experienced lawyer can help.
- **Hertz:** Hertz isn't automatically liable just because it owned the rental vehicle, but it may become relevant if the facts point to a vehicle condition problem or another issue tied to the rental vehicle itself.
- **More Than One Party:** Some crashes involve shared fault, which means more than one driver or entity may be part of the case depending on how the collision happened.

That is especially important in a Hertz Uber rental case because the roles can shift depending on who was injured. If the Uber driver is the injured person, the claim may be against another driver. If the Uber driver caused the crash, the claim may be brought by the passenger or someone in another vehicle. If the facts suggest brake problems, tire issues, steering defects, lighting failures, or poor maintenance, the condition of the rental vehicle may also become part of the case.

A serious Hertz rental accident claim shouldn't be treated like a generic rideshare form. Liability may run in several directions depending on whether the injured person was the Uber driver, a passenger, someone in another vehicle, or a pedestrian. That is one reason these cases often require a closer look at ownership, operation, maintenance, app status, and the conduct of every driver involved.

Evidence in a Hertz Uber Rental Accident Goes Beyond the Police Report

The police report still matters. So do witness statements, scene photos, damage photos, medical records, and crash reconstruction where needed. But in a Hertz Uber rental accident, those are only part of the picture. The strongest proof may also come from records that show how the vehicle was being used and what the driver was doing in the rideshare app.

The evidence may include trip logs, app-status records, dispatch timing, route history, communications tied to the ride, rental paperwork, and any records connected to maintenance or prior reported vehicle problems. In some cases, surveillance video from airports, hotels, gas stations, garages, apartment entrances, or downtown intersections may do more to prove the claim than the initial police narrative.

That is why these cases need to be looked at early. The longer the delay, the more likely it is that digital records disappear, surveillance footage is overwritten, and the parties defending the case shape the story before the injured person has a full picture of what happened.

The most important evidence often includes:

- **App Activity Records:** These records can help show whether the driver was offline, available for rides, en route to a pickup, or carrying a passenger.
- **Trip and Route Data:** Timing and route information may show whether the crash happened during an active rideshare phase or while the driver was repositioning.
- **Rental Documents:** The Hertz rental paperwork may help show the structure of the arrangement and whether there were terms relevant to the use of the vehicle.
- **Vehicle Condition Evidence:** Photos, repair history, inspection issues, and maintenance-related information may matter if a mechanical problem contributed to the crash.
- **Local Surveillance Footage:** Cameras from hotels, parking facilities, airports, businesses, and intersections may capture the pickup, stop, turn, merge, or impact itself.

That kind of evidence can make the difference between a claim that looks uncertain and one that becomes much harder for the insurers to downplay.

When You've Been Hurt in an Accident, Experience Matters

A serious Uber rental accident involving Hertz can leave injured people and their families dealing with medical care, lost income, disputed coverage, and insurance companies trying to pay as little as possible. These claims can involve app-status fights, rental records, ownership issues, long-shift driving patterns, and questions about whether the vehicle's condition played a role. They should be handled by attorneys with the resources to investigate complex accident cases and the experience to make insurance companies take the claim seriously.

[Keating Law Offices, P.C.](#) has helped injured people in Chicago and throughout Illinois recover financial compensation through settlements and verdicts. We have a long record of results in serious injury and [wrongful death](#) cases, including a [\\$4.25 million](#) wrongful death result for a pedestrian, a \$1.25 million wrongful death result for a [bicyclist](#), and strong results in car accident cases. Keating is known for standing up for regular people, building strong cases, and fighting for the justice and fair compensation injured people deserve.

If a crash involving an Uber Hertz rental left someone seriously hurt in Chicago or the surrounding area, Keating Law Offices offers a free consultation with absolutely no obligation. A member of our legal team can review the facts, answer questions, and explain what legal options may be available. Don't spin your wheels. Get Keating. [Contact us](#) today.