



Panchenko Law Firm Examines Rideshare Screening Gaps

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Panchenko Law Firm is highlighting reported weaknesses in the driver screening systems used by Uber and Lyft, an issue that legal analysts say can affect passengers when inadequately vetted drivers are involved in crashes. Both companies rely on Checkr, a third-party background screening service, to evaluate driver applicants. According to litigation trackers and consumer-protection reporting, Checkr has been named in numerous federal lawsuits alleging inaccurate or incomplete background reports under the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Published estimates and news accounts have also raised concerns that a substantial number of driver applications may have been processed with errors, though precise figures vary by source and have not been independently confirmed. These reported accuracy issues, the firm notes, bear on the reliability of the screening systems that rideshare passengers rely upon.

Under North Carolina law, Uber and Lyft are required to conduct criminal background checks, review driving histories, and check applicants against the National Sex Offender Registry before activating a driver. Screening practices in the industry commonly apply a seven-year lookback window, consistent with limitations found in the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act and related state provisions governing consumer reports. As a general matter, older records may fall outside that reporting window, subject to statutory

exceptions that can vary based on the nature of the offense and applicable regulations. The firm cautions that the precise application of these rules depends on the specific facts of each case.

Industry commentators and taxi trade groups have long contrasted rideshare screening with the fingerprint-based checks used by many licensed taxi operators, which in some jurisdictions are run against FBI databases. Uber and Lyft typically verify applicants using name, date of birth, Social Security Number, and driver's license number. Name-based checks have been identified in academic and industry literature as potentially more susceptible to identity confusion and record misattribution than fingerprint-based searches. Local requirements differ, and Charlotte area regulations govern taxi and rideshare operators under distinct frameworks.

North Carolina recognizes claims for negligent hiring and retention against employers who place workers in positions to harm third parties without adequate screening. When a rideshare driver involved in a crash was approved through a process that failed to detect a disqualifying record, the negligent hiring doctrine can provide a platform liability theory that operates independently of the independent contractor classification defense the platforms often assert. A Charlotte Rideshare Accident Lawyer may examine that theory alongside questions of the individual driver's liability.

Dmitriy Panchenko, Founder of Panchenko Law Firm, said the analysis reframes how these cases are examined. "When a driver was approved through a seven-year name-based check rather than a fingerprint-based comprehensive search, the question is not only whether the driver was negligent behind the wheel but whether the platform was negligent in putting that driver behind the wheel at all," Panchenko said. "Charlotte's Spanish-speaking, Russian-speaking, and Ukrainian-speaking passengers can face added barriers, because language gaps may delay evidence requests, slow the insurance period determination, and make it harder to pursue negligent hiring claims against platforms whose support systems operate primarily in English."

The firm provides representation in English, Spanish, Russian, and Ukrainian for the Charlotte region's diverse communities, including passengers who may be unfamiliar with North Carolina's contributory negligence standard and how it applies to rideshare claims. Its investigation approach across Mecklenburg County and Union County addresses both driver conduct and potential platform screening issues. Additional information is available through the resource maintained by the Panchenko Charlotte Rideshare Accident Lawyer.

Panchenko Law Firm, PLLC is a personal injury law firm based in Charlotte and Matthews, North Carolina, representing rideshare accident victims, car accident clients, and other injury clients throughout Mecklenburg County, Union County, and the Charlotte metro area. The firm reports having recovered more than \$20 million for clients over the course of its practice and provides multilingual representation in English, Spanish, Russian, and Ukrainian on a contingency fee basis.

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Panchenko Law Firm

Panchenko Law Firm offers exceptional legal services with a client-focused approach, prioritizing trust and advocacy in personal injury law.

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