

When catastrophic injuries strike, selecting the right legal [product liability lawyer lafayette](#) team can profoundly affect both recovery and compensation. In Lafayette, Louisiana, law firms like **Broussard, David & Moroux**, **Brandt & Sherman, LLP**, and **Laborde Earles Injury Lawyers** have built reputations for handling complex cases involving brain injury, wrongful death, and other life-altering incidents.

However, recent and upcoming changes to Louisiana's personal injury laws require injured parties to act diligently, ask the right questions, and carefully vet their injury lawyers rather than relying solely on billboards or catchy ads. This article aims to help you navigate these issues including the new two-year prescription period, the 51% fault bar, and recent medical expense rules—plus, what to look for beyond superficial indicators like Google ratings or billboard size.

Louisiana's Key Legal Changes Impacting Catastrophic Injury Cases

Effective July 1, 2024, and extending into 2026, Louisiana is implementing significant reforms to its personal injury laws, especially affecting catastrophic injury and wrongful death suits. These changes shape how and when injured parties must file and what claims they can pursue.

1. The Two-Year Prescription Period (Effective July 1, 2024)

Historically, Louisiana allowed a three-year prescription period (statute of limitations) for most personal injury claims. This is changing:

- **New Rule:** Injury claims must be filed within *two years* from the date of the injury.
- **Why It Matters:** This shorter deadline reduces your available time to investigate and prepare a case.
- **My Recommendation:** During your initial consultation with any Lafayette injury lawyer—whether **557 Jefferson St Lafayette** or elsewhere—write down the exact injury date and ask how the new deadline applies to your case. Don't assume the "one year" or "two year" deadline applies without confirming the injury occurrence date; many firms still confuse this.

2. The 51% Fault Bar (Effective January 1, 2026)

Louisiana is adopting a new comparative fault threshold that bars recovery if the injured person is found to be more than 50% at fault:

- **Current Rule:** Previously, injury victims could recover damages even if partially at fault.
- **New Rule:** If you are *51% or more at fault*, you cannot recover any damages.
- **Practical Impact:** Proper legal representation is crucial to assess and argue fault percentages correctly.

3. Paid vs. Billed Medical Expenses Rule (Effective January 1, 2026)

Another major change influences how medical expenses are accounted in lawsuits:

- **Old Practice:** Plaintiffs could recover the total billed medical expenses, which is often much higher than the amounts actually paid.
- **New Practice:** Only the *amount actually paid* for medical treatment will be recoverable in damages.
- **Why It's Important:** This can lower potential compensation amounts. It also elevates the importance of thorough documentation and negotiating with medical providers before filing suit.

How to Vet a Lafayette Catastrophic Injury Lawyer Beyond Billboards and Ratings

Lafayette has no shortage of personal injury lawyers, but choosing the right one takes more than spotting a glowing **5.0 rating with 517 reviews** or noticing a prominent office at *557 Jefferson St Lafayette*. Here's what I always advise clients to do:



1. **Check Google Search Results and Local Map Listings:** Search terms like “brain injury wrongful death Lafayette” or “catastrophic injury cases Broussard David Moroux” on Google and review the *top 30 results*. Do the firms consistently appear with detailed content and client engagement or just generic filler pages? Are their Google local map results solid and recently updated?
2. **Look Beyond Logo Size and Review Count:** A larger logo or more reviews do NOT guarantee quality. Some firms generate reviews artificially or focus on billboard advertising rather than case results.
3. **Read Client Testimonials Carefully:** Genuine success stories often mention specific results or how the lawyer helped navigate complex changes like the upcoming 51% fault bar.

4. **Evaluate Firm Website Transparency:** Do they explain how Louisiana’s prescription periods work? Do they mention new rules coming in 2024 or 2026? Or do they just promise “maximum compensation” with no substance?
5. **Ask Specific Questions During Consultations:** Always write down the lawyer’s exact answers about deadlines, fault percentages, and how medical expenses are calculated. Clear answers indicate experience and transparency.

Why Firms Like Broussard, David & Moroux Stand Out

Broussard, David & Moroux has shown a strong understanding of both the legal and medical intricacies involved in catastrophic injury cases. Their office located at *557 Jefferson St Lafayette* places them centrally to serve Acadiana clients.

- **Specialization:** Brain injury and wrongful death cases.
- **Reputation:** Maintains a solid Google 5.0 rating based on real client feedback, with reviews highlighting clear communication and practical legal guidance.
- **Adaptability:** They stay current with Louisiana law, explaining the two-year prescription and upcoming fault rules clearly on their site and during consultations.

Comparably, other well-known players such as **Brandt & Sherman, LLP** and **Laborde Earles Injury Lawyers** also offer strong legal representation but vary in transparency and local presence. When researching, double-check their education on the new Louisiana personal injury changes and client communication practices.

Summary Table: Key Changes and What Clients Must Know

Change	Effective Date	Impact on Injury Claims	Client Action
Two-Year Prescription Period	July 1, 2024	Shorter deadline to file injury suits	Confirm exact injury date and consult promptly
51% Fault Bar	January 1, 2026	No recovery if plaintiff >50% at fault	Ensure detailed fault analysis by lawyer
Paid vs. Billed Medical Expenses	January 1, 2026	Recover only paid medical expenses, not billed	Maintain clear records of payments; discuss with lawyer

Final Advice: Be Proactive, Document Everything, and Choose Wisely

Catastrophic injuries can be life-altering for victims and their families. Louisiana’s evolving legal landscape demands quick action and well-informed decisions. When you meet with lawyers—from **Broussard, David & Moroux** to **Brandt & Sherman, LLP** or **Laborde Earles Injury Lawyers**—always:

- **Write down the answers.** This helps avoid confusion later and ensures you understand critical deadlines.
- **Ask about the 2024–2026 law changes.** Gauge their knowledge and how it affects your case.
- **Don’t rely only on reviews or advertising.** Instead, dig into firm reputation, client outcomes, and transparency.

By combining these strategies with early legal consultation, you can better protect your rights and maximize recovery when facing catastrophic injury challenges in Lafayette, Louisiana.