

CHECKLIST

WHAT TO DO AFTER A CAR ACCIDENT

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SAFETY FIRST:

Move yourself and your car to a safe area away from oncoming traffic.

If necessary, **CALL 911**

CHECKLIST:

INFORMATION YOU NEED AT THE SCENE OF A CAR ACCIDENT

INFORMATION: Write down AND photograph

- The other driver(s) name
- The other driver(s)' drivers license number
- Registration number
- Insurance Information
- Cell phone & email (test their cell by making a call on the scene)
- License plate state and numbers

PICTURES: Take photos of the damage to all cars involved

- GENERAL:** Take general photos of the entire scene, get as many angles as possible
- TRAFFIC SIGNS:** Take photos of any "traffic indicators" (e.g. stop lights, yield signs, other road signs) and try to include the cars in the photo
- UP CLOSE SHOTS:** Photograph all four sides of your vehicle any and all damage to it (e.g. broken lights, dents, deployed airbags, etc.) up close. Do this with all cars involved
- STREET SIGNS:** Photograph the intersection or identifying street. If there is damage to any street signs or other public property, photograph that
- SKID MARKS:** If you can see skid marks, photograph them from afar and up close
- DATE & TIME:** Take a photo of someone else's phone home screen that has the date and time displayed
- WEATHER:** Take a photo of the weather (e.g. clouds, rain, snow, where the sun is in the sky, etc.)
- INJURIES:** Take detailed and graphic photos of any injuries you sustained, the other driver(s)/passenger(s). Continue to take photos of your own injuries over the coming days

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION:** Adrenaline from a crash can mask serious injuries for hours. If you're hurt, or suspect you might be hurt, have someone take you to the hospital or an urgent care center **RIGHT AWAY**.
- DON'T APOLOGIZE:** Be careful to not use phrases such as "I feel fine," don't apologize or accept responsibility. There are many factors that can cause a car accident and you will almost certainly not know all of them at the time of the crash.
- ONLY DISCUSS ACCIDENT DETAILS WITH AUTHORITIES:** Limit your discussion of the accident with the other party or parties involved. Only discuss details with the responding police officer or other authorities.
- SEEK AN ATTORNEY:** In order to understand all of your options, seek out a personal injury attorney sooner rather than later. Consultations are typically free and most firms will only take a fee if they win the case for you.

Hinman Law Group is a personal injury law firm.

If you need help navigating the insurance company call attorney

John Hinman at (877) 462-9732 or visit www.HinmanLawGroup.com

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