

What To Do If You're Involved in a Wreck?

In the seconds following a wreck you are often shocked and confused. Yet there are key steps you must take to protect yourself. Taking photographs of the vehicles and jotting down the time and weather conditions are a couple, simple, but important steps. A big step is refraining from signing your rights away. These are just a few simple things you can do that will pay dividends down the road. If you wait too long to take action, sometimes important evidence is lost. For these reasons, we highly recommend you take steps as soon after the wreck as possible.

- ✓ Immediately Call 911 for medical help if anyone is injured.
- ✓ Call the police. They will document the accident and gather facts. If you don't, it will be your word against the other person's.
- ✓ Promptly report the accident to your insurance carrier.
- ✓ Exchange critical information with the other party involved. Secure their name, address, phone number, license plate number, make, model and year of the vehicle, insurance information, vehicle identification number (VIN) and driver's license number.
- ✓ Always secure the names, addresses, and phone numbers of any witnesses.
- ✓ Keep a disposable camera handy in your glove box to take pictures of the damage to the vehicles and the area around the wreck.
- ✓ Collect and preserve any physical evidence that could have caused the wreck.
- ✓ Gather critical details about the collision: draw your own diagram; note the date and time; the type of weather; the location of the accident—including any landmarks.
- ✓ Call a lawyer. (We will send out accident investigators to collect valuable evidence for our clients' cases.)

Although a wreck can undoubtedly be an emotionally charge situation - Do not panic. Remain calm and call for help. Don't leave the scene. Do not discuss the wreck with anyone or blame anyone, including yourself. Do not discuss the wreck with other driver's insurance company before you consult a lawyer. Any statements you make, can be used against you in the future. Do not sign any documents presented to you by an insurance agent or agree to settlement of your case until you have obtained legal advice.



If you need help following a car wreck, we have the experience you need and will vigorously work to obtain the results you deserve. Contact us at 316-265-6000 or 800-475-4140 to protect your rights.