

CAR ACCIDENT IMMEDIATE ACTIONS: GUIDE & CHECKLIST

Keep this guide in your vehicle for quick reference in case of a car accident. It will help you stay organized and ensure that no critical steps are missed.

1. Ensure Safety

- **Move to a Safe Location:** If possible, move your vehicle to the side of the road or another safe area away from traffic.
- **Turn on Hazard Lights:** Alert other drivers by activating your hazard lights.
- **Use Flares or Warning Triangles:** Set up emergency flares or triangles if you have them to increase visibility, especially at night or in bad weather.

2. Check for Injuries

- **Assess Injuries:** Check yourself, your passengers, and others involved in the accident for injuries, even if they seem minor.
- **Call 911:** Always call 911 if anyone is injured, no matter how small the injury appears. Internal injuries or shock might not be immediately obvious.

3. Call 911 to Report the Accident

- **Report the Incident:** Provide the dispatcher with details like your exact location, the number of vehicles involved, and whether anyone is injured.
- **Stay at the Scene:** Remain on-site until police and emergency personnel arrive, unless it's unsafe to do so.

4. Gather Information

- **Exchange Information:** Share and collect these details from the other drivers involved:
 - Full names, phone numbers, and addresses.
 - Driver's license numbers.
 - Insurance company names and policy numbers.
 - Vehicle make, model, year, and license plate numbers.
 - Passenger and witness contact information (if any).
- **Document the Scene:**
 - Take photos of vehicle damage from multiple angles.
 - Capture images of the accident scene, including skid marks, road signs, and weather conditions.
 - Photograph visible injuries, if appropriate.
 - Sketch the accident scene if possible, marking the position of the vehicles.

5. File a Police Report

- **Provide an Accurate Statement:** Describe what happened without admitting fault.
- **Get the Police Report Number:** Ask for the report number and contact details of the responding officers. This will be important for your insurance claim.

6. Seek Medical Attention

- **Visit a Doctor:** Even if you feel fine, get checked for hidden injuries that may not show symptoms immediately, like whiplash or concussions.

- **Keep Medical Records:** Document all medical visits, treatments, and bills related to the accident. This will be essential for insurance claims and any legal actions.

7. Report to Your Insurance Company

- **Contact Your Insurer:** Report the accident to your insurance company as soon as possible. Most policies require prompt reporting.
- **Submit Documentation:** Provide your insurer with copies of the police report, photos of the scene, medical records, and any repair estimates.

8. Contact a Lawyer if Needed

- **When to Consult an Attorney:** Consider seeking legal help if:
 - You've suffered serious injuries.
 - There's a dispute about who was at fault.
 - You're having difficulty with your insurance company.
- **Provide Documentation:** Bring all relevant information, including the police report, medical records, and photos, to your lawyer for review.

9. Manage Vehicle Repairs

- **Choose a Reputable Repair Shop:** Select a trusted repair shop, either one recommended by your insurance company or a shop with good reviews.
- **Get Multiple Estimates:** Compare repair estimates to ensure accuracy.
- **Keep Receipts:** Document all repair costs for your insurance claim.

10. Address Emotional and Psychological Impact

- **Seek Support:** Don't ignore the emotional toll of the accident. Talk to family, friends, or a counselor.
- **Consider Professional Help:** If you're experiencing anxiety, flashbacks, or other symptoms of trauma, consider consulting a therapist, especially if symptoms worsen.

11. Prevent Future Accidents

- **Practice Safe Driving:** Follow traffic laws, avoid distractions, and always remain alert while driving.
- **Maintain Your Vehicle:** Regular maintenance (tires, brakes, fluids) ensures your vehicle is in safe driving condition.

12. Key Contacts and Resources

- **Emergency Services:** Dial 911 for police, fire, or medical assistance.
- **Ron Meyers and Associates:** For legal help, contact us at (360) 459-5600 or visit www.olympiainjurylawyer.com.

Final Reminders

- **Stay calm and focused:** The more organized you are after an accident, the better equipped you'll be to handle insurance claims and any legal proceedings.
- **Document everything:** Photos, medical visits, and detailed notes can protect you and help build your case if needed.