

What to Do After a Car Accident

General practices many people follow in the hours and days after a car accident. This is general information, not instructions for any specific situation, and it can vary based on the details of any individual accident.

Right after the crash

- Check whether anyone involved needs immediate medical attention.
- If it is safe to do so, move vehicles out of traffic.
- Turn on hazard lights and set out reflective triangles if available.
- Call emergency services if there are injuries, significant property damage, or a dispute about what happened.

Information to exchange at the scene

- Names, contact information, and insurance details for every driver involved.
- License plate numbers, and the make, model, and color of each vehicle.
- The exact location and approximate time of the accident.
- Keep conversations factual — avoid statements about who caused the accident.

Documenting the scene

- Photos of vehicle damage, the road, traffic signals, and any visible injuries.
- Contact information for anyone who witnessed the accident.
- A copy of the police report, if one was filed.

In the days that follow

1. Notify your insurance company reasonably promptly — most policies include reporting requirements.
2. Seek a medical evaluation even if you feel fine, since some injuries are not immediately obvious.
3. Keep records of every bill, visit note, and piece of correspondence related to the accident.
4. Consider a free case review before signing anything or discussing settlement.

This checklist is general information, not legal advice, and does not cover every situation. It does not create an attorney-client relationship. A licensed attorney can advise on the facts of a specific accident. Requirements for reporting an accident to police vary by state and by the severity of the accident.

Gold Medal Injury — Free case review: (702) 304-7625