

What to Do Immediately After an Accident in Florida

A Step-by-Step Checklist to Protect Your Health and Legal Rights

IMPORTANT NOTE: This checklist is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Every accident is different. If you have questions about your specific situation, consult a qualified Florida personal injury attorney.

STEP 1: Ensure Safety and Call 911

- ☒ Move to a safe location if possible
- ☒ Call 911 immediately
- ☒ Request medical assistance if anyone is injured
- ☒ Stay at the scene until law enforcement arrives

Why this matters:

A police report creates an official record of the accident, which is often critical in Florida injury claims.

STEP 2: Seek Medical Attention (Even If You Feel "Fine")

- ☒ Accept medical evaluation at the scene if offered
- ☒ Visit an emergency room, urgent care, or doctor as soon as possible
- ☒ Follow all medical advice and treatment plans

Important Florida Reminder:

Some injuries do not appear right away. Delaying medical care can harm both your health and your claim.

STEP 3: Document the Scene Thoroughly

If it is safe to do so, take photos or videos of:

- ☒ Vehicle damage from multiple angles
- ☒ The accident scene and surrounding area
- ☒ Road conditions, signage, and traffic signals
- ☒ Visible injuries
- ☒ Weather and lighting conditions

Tip:

Use your phone's timestamp feature if available.

STEP 4: Exchange Information Carefully

- ☒ Name, address, and phone number of all involved parties
- ☒ Driver's license numbers
- ☒ Insurance company names and policy numbers
- ☒ Vehicle make, model, and license plate numbers

Do NOT:

- ☒ Admit fault
- ☒ Apologize in a way that could be interpreted as blame
- ☒ Guess or speculate about what happened

STEP 5: Identify Witnesses

- ☒ Collect names and contact information of witnesses
- ☒ Ask witnesses to briefly describe what they saw
- ☒ Note where each witness was standing

Witness statements can become extremely important later.

STEP 6: Be Careful What You Say

- ✗ Speak honestly to police, but stick to facts
- ✗ Do not provide recorded statements to insurance companies without guidance
- ✗ Avoid detailed discussions about injuries at the scene

Insurance companies may use early statements against you.

STEP 7: Preserve Evidence

- ✗ Keep damaged clothing and personal items
- ✗ Save repair estimates and receipts
- ✗ Keep copies of medical records and bills
- ✗ Do not repair or dispose of damaged property until advised

STEP 8: Avoid Social Media Pitfalls

- ✗ Do not post photos, videos, or comments about the accident
- ✗ Avoid discussing injuries or activities online
- ✗ Ask friends and family not to tag you

Even innocent posts can be taken out of context.

STEP 9: Track Your Symptoms and Losses

- ✗ Keep a daily record of pain or discomfort
- ✗ Note missed work or reduced income
- ✗ Document activities you can no longer do
- ✗ Record emotional or mental impacts

This information helps show the full impact of your injury.

STEP 10: Understand That Timing Matters in Florida

Florida law limits how long you have to take legal action after an accident. Waiting too long can permanently affect your rights.

If you are unsure what to do next, speaking with an attorney early can help protect your claim.

FINAL REMINDER

You do not have to navigate this process alone. Understanding your rights early can prevent costly mistakes later.

About This Checklist

Prepared by **Kristopher Torres, Esq.**, Florida Personal Injury Attorney, to help injured individuals understand the immediate steps that matter most after an accident.

Have questions about your situation?

A brief conversation can help you understand your options and next steps.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

This checklist is provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Reading or using this document does not create an attorney-client relationship. Every accident and injury is different. Laws and deadlines may change. If you have questions about your specific situation, you should consult a qualified Florida personal injury attorney.

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