

The moments following a car accident can be confusing and traumatic. To safeguard your ability to recover full compensation for injuries and make sure you have the support you need, follow these essential steps:

Steps to Prepare Before an Accident Occurs:

1. Keep a copy of Hardy Wolf & Downing's Car Accident Checklist in your vehicle
2. Always have your insurance card, driver's license, and registration with you when you're driving
3. Keep a safety kit in your vehicle

Steps to Take Immediately After a Car Accident Occurs:

1. Check Yourself & Others for Injuries

TIP: If you or someone else is injured, call 911 or ask someone nearby to do so. If you're seriously injured, try not to move and wait for first responders to arrive.

2. Contact Law Enforcement

TIP: Always call the police immediately to file an accident report.

3. Preserve the Scene

TIP: Avoid moving the vehicles involved unless it poses an immediate hazard.

TIP: If you must move the vehicles, make sure to take photos of the scene before the vehicles are moved.

4. Gather Witness Information

TIP: Speak with on-scene eyewitnesses and collect their names and contact information, do not rely on law enforcement to do this.

5. Exchange Insurance Information

TIP: Collect insurance information from all involved drivers.

6. Avoid Admissions of Responsibility

TIP: Do not admit fault or assume blame, even if details are unclear.

Note: When filing an insurance claim, the adjuster assesses fault by inspecting damaged vehicles/property, considering information from all involved parties, and reviewing supporting documents such as police reports and scene photographs.

7. Document the Accident

TIP: Write down your recollections of the collision while they are fresh.

TIP: Request a copy of the accident report number from the police on the scene.

TIP: Document the accident with your own pictures and video (taken from multiple angles and damage done to both vehicles).



Full Name

Contact Information

Driver's License and Plate Number

Color, Type, and Vehicle Model

Location of Accident

What to do After a Car Accident Occurs:

1. Consult with an Attorney / Call 1-800-INJURED

TIP: Do not negotiate with insurance adjusters until you consult a skilled car accident lawyer.

TIP: A car accident attorney will protect your rights and fight for financial recovery.

2. Notify Your Insurer

TIP: After you've checked off all the items above you'll have everything you need to contact your insurance company. They'll likely assign an adjuster to inspect your vehicle for damage to help determine fault in the accident and repair costs.

3. Follow Medical Advice

TIP: Follow all medical advice from your physician, including medication and physical therapy.

TIP: Keep detailed notes and records of all treatments.

The moments and days following an accident can significantly impact your case. Contact an experienced attorney to guide you through the process and maximize your chances of obtaining the compensation you deserve. For a no-charge initial consultation, call us at **1-800-INJURED**. We're here to help you understand your legal options.

