



6 Steps to Take After You've Been Injured in a Car Wreck



Maynard Law

LAW OFFICES OF C. DOUGLAS MAYNARD, JR., PLLC

1

Report the Wreck

ARE YOU AT THE
SCENE OF THE
ACCIDENT? IF NOT,
SKIP TO STEP #2

Immediately after a car accident, it is crucial that you **call 911**. Take a look at your surroundings and clearly communicate the following information to the dispatcher:

- Use distinguishing landmarks and street signs to help explain where you're located.
- Be descriptive about the severity of the accident and injuries so that the dispatcher can determine which, and how many, emergency vehicles to send to the scene.
- Note the make and model of any vehicles involved.
- Make the dispatcher aware of where you are in regards to traffic, especially if you are in a potentially dangerous position.



Take Photos at the Scene

Taking photos at the scene of the wreck can capture important evidence that may help support your case. Not only should you take pictures of the cars, but also your surroundings. Take photos of street signs and any other identifying characteristics. Having photographs of the scene will also help you remember details that you may otherwise forget.



Take Photos of Damage After the Wreck

If you're severely injured, skip taking photos and go to the hospital immediately. Once you are able, locate your car (if it has been towed) and take pictures of any damage from multiple angles.

Take Photos of Your Injuries

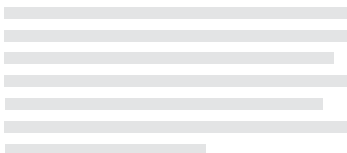
Take photos of the accident and your injuries as soon as possible. Documenting any bruises, cuts, burns, etc., that you sustained will help support your case by providing evidence of the severity of your injuries.



Seek medical attention promptly after the wreck

Whether you need to go to the hospital immediately or at a later time, **it is important to be seen by a doctor if you are experiencing pain or discomfort.** The longer you wait, the more you can jeopardize your health and your injury claim. Postponing medical treatment can impact your ability to prove the severity of your injuries and that they were caused by the car wreck.

DOCTOR'S NOTE



Dr. Smith MD

Ask for a work note

If you cannot work due to your injuries, it is important to ask your doctor for a work note that documents your work restrictions and physical limitations. This will help you avoid disputes concerning your ability to return to work. In addition, make sure you follow your doctor's advice and follow up with your doctor. Keep records of all of your appointments.

4

Notify Your Insurance Company

Promptly contact your insurance company while you clearly remember the details of the wreck to help it create an accurate record of the collision. To avoid saying something that could jeopardize your case, call your agent or the central claims reporting office and make sure you get straight to the point. Present only facts.





Consult With an Attorney Before Signing any Documents or Giving Written or Verbal Statements to the Insurance Company



After you've been in a car wreck, insurance companies will be looking to place blame **on you**. Although they may say that they are gathering information to help with your case, they are looking to twist your words to minimize their payout or deny your claim entirely. It is crucial to build your case based on facts that place fault entirely on the other party.

Avoid Exposing Yourself to Contributory Negligence

A big reason to avoid providing any form of statement is contributory negligence in North Carolina. Contributory negligence rules provide that injured victims receive compensation if and only if they were in no way "at-fault." A statement provided to the insurance company could be twisted to show that you could have avoided the wreck in some way.

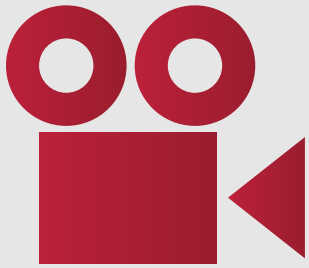
Before you provide any form of statement to an insurance adjuster, it's important to consult an attorney who can help you avoid supplying any information that could potentially hurt your case.





Consider Hiring an Attorney Before the Evidence Disappears

Hiring an attorney as soon as you can is crucial for the success of your case. Evidence involved may be forgotten or disappear. A primary example of this is that although emergency 911 calls are recorded, they are only kept for a short amount of time (often only 30 days).



Surveillance Tapes

If security tapes can play a big part in proving your case, acting quickly is key. If the “at-fault” driver was drinking and driving, video surveillance could be an important piece of evidence to support your claim. Restaurants, bars and retail stores tape over their surveillance tapes after a certain period of time—therefore evidence that can prove the validity of your case will be lost if not secured immediately.

Eyewitness Testimonials

In addition, collecting statements from eyewitnesses as soon as possible will ensure they have a vivid memory of the events. Also, witnesses are often much harder to locate the longer one waits. Not only does evidence disappear, but the time you have to collect this evidence and file your claim can also run out. Get in touch with an attorney to make sure that you can obtain crucial evidence and build your case before the statute of limitations runs out.





You've got one chance, **MAKE IT COUNT.** We will fight for you.

The Law Offices of C. Douglas Maynard, Jr., PLLC can help you seek full and fair compensation and assist with case issues.

Working with an attorney with experience in car accident cases can aid in getting you what you deserve with your injuries and insurance claims. Our attorneys can get you the benefits you're entitled to and make the process less stressful for you and your family.

DOUG MAYNARD

As a former insurance adjuster, Attorney Doug Maynard uses his insider knowledge to hold wrongdoers and insurance companies accountable, maximizing the recovery for clients. An authority on insurance issues, he has a proven track record of more than 25 years of experience.



Call us today to schedule your free consultation
(336) 777-1411 | www.dougmaynardlaw.com

Law Offices of C. Douglas Maynard, Jr., PLLC
514 South Stratford Road, Suite 321
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

This content is provided for general informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice on any subject matter. An attorney/client relationship has not been created. Recipients of the content shouldn't act on the basis of any information included without seeking appropriate legal advice.