

WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT

Your safety and the safety of others involved in a motorcycle accident are of primary concern. However, when possible, the information you are able to gather at a motorcycle accident scene can have a positive impact on the success of any future claim you may file. What you can do when an accident occurs:

SECURE THE SCENE

If you have been in a motorcycle accident, remain at the scene unless you require immediate medical attention. If you are able to do so, check those involved in the accident for injuries and administer first aid. Call an ambulance and the police, if necessary. Try to notify oncoming traffic to proceed with caution by placing flares or using hazard lights.

OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM DRIVER[S]

Write down the names, addresses, and phone numbers of individuals involved in the accident, as well as their vehicle licence plate, driver's licence, and registration numbers. Obtain their insurance information (company names and policy numbers).

IDENTIFY WITNESSES

In addition to obtaining the personal information of the other drivers involved in the motorcycle accident, write down the names, phone numbers, and addresses of any witnesses at the scene, and try to get their written statements detailing what each saw.

MAKING COMMENTS AND STATEMENTS

Do not discuss the accident with anyone except the police officer investigating the scene. Do not admit liability, even to the officer. Any statement you make could be used against you later, so stick to the facts and let the investigation determine who is at fault. In the case of an injury accident, reserve any statements for your motorcycle accident attorney.

Ask the investigating officer to provide you with their business card and the incident number, so that you can obtain a copy of the accident report.

If you are arrested and taken into custody, do not resist. An arrest does not automatically constitute civil liability. Once again, refrain from making any statements until you contact a motorcycle accident lawyer.

NOTES AND PICTURES

While the events are fresh in your mind, write down the significant details of the accident, including where and how it occurred, road and weather conditions, whether or not traffic control devices were present, and posted speed limits. Draw sketches or take photographs of the motorcycle accident scene to record skid marks, the position of the vehicles involved, and other physical evidence that is likely to disappear after the accident.

WHEN TO LEAVE A MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT SCENE

Unless you are seriously injured and require immediate medical attention, remain at the motorcycle accident scene to assist others who may be injured. Call an ambulance, if needed. Secure the area and contact the police. Once you have cooperated with the police and collected the necessary personal information from other drivers and witnesses, you may leave the scene. See your doctor immediately. Even serious injuries may not be apparent until well after the accident.

NOTIFY INSURANCE COMPANY

Notify your insurance company of the accident immediately. Make sure you document this notification. If you fail to alert your insurance company of the accident, it may have grounds to deny any accident claims you file. Do not make any statements without first obtaining advice.

INSURANCE CLAIMS

Any insurance claims made against you should be referred to your insurance company. Forward all insurance papers you receive to your insurance company. Under no circumstances should you pay or promise to pay any claimant, nor sign any documents prior to consulting with your attorney.



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