



The MKH Accident Guide

The impact of a car accident -- when your vehicle collides with another vehicle, a tree, a building, or another obstacle -- can be the beginning of a long and oftentimes stressful journey. In the moment after it happens, your heart beats fast and adrenaline rushes through your body. It can be difficult to make reasonable decisions in these moments because your brain naturally goes into flight or fight mode. Luckily, this guide can help. Take a deep breath and follow this guide. It will tell you everything you need to do in the aftermath of your accident.

It's great to read this resource for review at any time so that you can always have the information within fresh in your mind. We also recommend printing a copy to keep in your vehicle for emergencies.

In the days and weeks ahead, you'll be glad you followed these steps just in case you become involved in a personal injury case as a result of the collision.

First, let's look at the steps you need to take **at the scene**.

1. First and foremost, attend to your **safety** and that of anyone else involved. Assess yourself for injury immediately. Sometimes shock (and endorphins) can prevent you from feeling pain from your injuries right away, so be thorough. You may not realize the extent of your injuries until later. Next, assess others. Get yourself and anyone else to a safe place, out of the roadway. This may also

involve moving your vehicle carefully out of the roadway. Do what you can to prevent further injury.

2. Call **emergency services**. Report the accident and request police and an ambulance if necessary. We highly recommend calling the police even if the accident seems minor, and even if the other driver asks you not to. They may be doing this because they don't want to deal with the consequences of their actions! So get a police report filed, even if it just seems like a little fender bender. Again, sometimes you don't realize the severity of your injuries until later, so it is always good to have a record on file.

3. Take pictures. Get as much **photographic evidence** of the scene as you can. This should include photos of the damage to the vehicles, photos of your injuries (cuts, scratches, bruises, burns), photos of the position of the cars, photos of the road, photos of any street signs, and photos of the surroundings. Take your pictures from multiple angles. You never know what you'll need to be able to remember or prove. It is also wise to shoot a video of the scene if your phone has this capability.

4. Jot down some **notes**. Use the Notes function in your phone or a scrap of paper to record any thoughts that you feel may be relevant about the scene and what happened. It's ideal to do this while it is all still fresh in your memory.

5. Answer the police officer's questions about what happened so the police report can be filed, but **never say anything that could be interpreted as admitting fault**. To the best of your ability, you should avoid discussing the details of what happened with anyone but your attorney!

6. Get the other driver's information including name, address, phone number, insurance company, policy number, and plate numbers. Also **gather contact information** for anyone else on the scene who may have witnessed the accident in case you need them to attest to what they saw at a later date.

Remember: Your safety and wellbeing are the top priority. If the severity of your injuries prevents you from doing anything like taking pictures and you need to instead go in the ambulance to the hospital, that is okay.

After you leave the scene, it isn't over. There is still work to do to protect your possible claim. Here's what you need to do **after leaving the scene**.

1. **Let your insurance company know** you were in an accident. Make sure this is done within 72 hours.

2. **Follow your doctor's treatment plan.** Do not miss any appointments. Make sure you let them know about any and all physical issues you are having so that they can treat you properly. Do not ask to be released from treatment if you are still experiencing pain and/or if you do not have the go-ahead from your attorney.

3. Keep a **diary** of your recovery. It is useful to have a dated record of what you are experiencing. Write down your symptoms on a weekly or, preferably, daily basis. Include any major and minor inconveniences and/or restrictions in your daily activities. Include any impact this has on your social and/or romantic relationships.

4. **Get copies of the police report.** Usually you will have been provided with a phone number from the officer at the scene. If not, you can get copies from the county courthouse or the Department of Motor Vehicles.

5. Be careful on **social media**. Remember anything that you share publicly can become a part of your case.

6. **Cooperate with your attorney.** This may mean providing proof of lost earnings and wages, medical bills, insurance information and more. Providing the documentation your attorney requests promptly benefits your case. Remember that, if you're working with MKH Accident Attorneys, we care about you and your case and will work tirelessly to get you the best possible outcome.

Do I need an attorney?

If you're not sure, you should consult with a personal injury lawyer and find out. An experienced attorney can help you determine whether or not there should be a personal injury case associated with your accident. They can help you proceed if it's appropriate.

At MKH Accident Attorneys, we know the stress and pain a car accident can cause. We are committed to getting our clients the compensation they deserve. We want to hear your story, so give us a call today and let's get started! Please also feel free to contact us if you have any remaining questions after reading this guide. You can reach us at (949) 299-7632.