



Don't Lose Your Right to a Valid Georgia Personal Injury Claim! Do These 7 Things After an Accident

Motor vehicle accidents are overwhelming and potentially catastrophic events. In less than a minute, your life can change, resulting in serious injury and sending you on a stressful and confusing journey to protect your rights. What's even more frustrating is that insurance companies will almost certainly try to minimize your claim and make you settle for less than what you are actually entitled to.

To protect your right to a valid Georgia personal injury claim, be sure to follow the eight steps below.

1. Assess Injuries

Immediately after the accident, determine if anyone is injured. If any of your passengers are unconscious, bleeding, or displaying other signs of injury, call 911. If your vehicle is still operable, Georgia state law requires you to move it to a safe location off the roadway, away from traffic, but do not actually move any injured parties unless you have reason to believe that staying in the car would be too dangerous.

Calling an ambulance will not only provide you with immediate medical assistance, it will also create a valuable accident record. Ambulance attendants can also act as witnesses if necessary when you file a personal injury claim.

2. Call the Police

Once you and your passengers are out of harm's way, call the police. They will come to the scene and investigate the collision by speaking to you, the other driver, your respective passengers, and any witnesses. They will also examine the damaged vehicles and make a report. Depending on the circumstances, the police may also lay charges.

Be sure to request a copy of the police report, as it will be an important piece of evidence in your claim.

3. Get the Other Driver's Information

If the other driver does not leave the scene or is not too impaired to communicate (if they are, wait for the police), approach them and obtain the following information:

- Their name and contact information
- License and insurance information
- License plate number
- Vehicle make and model

If there were any witnesses to the collision, get their names and contact details for later follow-up.

4. Document Everything

If your phone was not damaged, take photos or even videos of the accident scene. These images can serve as evidence of:

- Road and weather conditions
- The severity of the impact
- The direction from which your car was struck
- The speed of the other driver
- How badly your vehicle was damaged

Try to take photos from different distances so that information about the surrounding area, such as the distance to a traffic light or scene, can be captured for later review. If you or your passengers were hurt, taking pictures and videos will help prove the nature and extent of the injuries.

If your injuries cause you to miss work, be sure to document the time you were forced to be away. Keep a record of any losses (such as unpaid leave) and provide this information, along with details about your regular income, to your Georgia personal injury attorney. The same goes for any out-of-pocket expenses you incur due to limitations caused by the accident. This includes but is not limited to assistance with:

- Housekeeping
- Child care
- Transportation
- Home maintenance (e.g. snow shoveling, lawn mowing)

Be sure to keep receipts for these expenses and give them to your personal injury attorney, as you may be eligible for reimbursement for them.

5. Seek Medical Attention (if you deem it necessary for your case)

If you were injured in a motor vehicle accident, seeking medical attention is critical. Post-accident adrenaline surges and shock can make it impossible to self-assess your injuries with any accuracy. Some symptoms may not even manifest until hours or even days after the crash. A thorough examination by emergency room physicians or your family doctor will ensure that your injuries are detected and treated, and that an important record is created.

6. Don't Talk to Insurance Company Representatives

You're going to be surprised at how quickly representatives from the other driver's insurance company are going to reach out to you. They're simply doing their job, which is trying to save the insurer as much money as possible. **Do not give them any information.** Once you have given an official statement to the police, you don't have to speak to anyone else about the accident. Direct all inquiries to your personal injury attorney.

7. Contact a Georgia Personal Injury Attorney

Insurance companies take immediate action to protect their interests after a collision. This involves building a case that will shield them from having to compensate you for your injuries. Preserve and protect your right to compensation by getting a personal injury attorney on your side at the start. An attorney with experience in motor vehicle accident claims will ensure that the accident scene is properly investigated and documented and prevent an insurer from improving its bottom line at your expense.

Were You Injured By a Truck or Tractor-Trailer?

Trucks, tractor-trailers, and other large commercial vehicles travel on Georgia's roads and highways on a daily basis. While they provide an extremely important service to the state economy, they can pose a significant injury risk to other motorists. Trucks and tractor-trailers weigh up to 30 times as much as most passenger vehicles, which makes them capable of causing serious injury in the event of an accident.

If a large commercial vehicle was involved in your accident, you are strongly advised to contact a personal injury attorney with experience in this area. Truck collisions, especially those involving commercial vehicles, have complex legalities, and the trucking companies typically have dedicated attorneys available to help minimize their liability after an event. A Georgia trucking accident attorney will protect your right to fair compensation.

Contact GA Injury Advocates Today

At GA Injury Advocates we are here to advocate for motor vehicle accident clients 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We understand the devastation that a collision—especially with a large truck—can cause, and have successfully fought on behalf on clients not only in Metro Atlanta but throughout Georgia. Our attorneys will not hesitate to take on large trucking and insurance companies to get you the compensation you deserve. That's why we're the premier auto and tractor-trailer law firm in Georgia. To schedule your free case evaluation, [contact us](#) today!