



6 Things You Should Do After A **CAR ACCIDENT**



After a long day of work in Atlanta comes the dreadful game of traffic frogger, and the top thing on your mind is getting yourself, and your loved ones, home safely. You're thinking about going home and recovering from a long day of work by doing a whole lot of nothing, and then, a little more of nothing. All of a sudden you are faced with an unexpected car accident. Now what? This can leave you feeling scattered and unsure of what to do. Here are the six things you should do immediately following a car accident.

1. Move to a safe area, stop the vehicle, and stay at the scene.

The first thing you should do after an accident is move out of ongoing traffic and to a safe area, such as the shoulder of the road. You'll also want to turn on your hazards to notify other drivers that you have stopped. Once the vehicle has stopped and this is the most important part, do not leave the scene of the accident. Leaving the scene of an accident could leave you facing serious criminal penalties.

Get out and check on others involved. Make sure it's safe to open your car door and exit your vehicle. Make sure to check on all parties involved, including drivers, passengers, and pedestrians, BEFORE assessing property damage.



2. Seek medical treatment

Do not hesitate to seek medical attention, even for a “minor” accident. Minor symptoms such as dizziness need to be checked out by a healthcare professional. If someone is unconscious or has neck/back pain, do not move them until a qualified medical professional arrives. This includes YOU, if you are having neck/back pain, do not move, wait for the medical professionals.

If you do get checked out by a healthcare professional, be sure to obtain a copy of and keep track of your medical treatment and records.

3. Call the police

A fender bender may seem like a seemingly minor incident, but it's important to call the police because accident reports prove invaluable when it comes to insurance claims and lawsuits. Be sure once on the scene, the police offer documents as much as possible in that report and that you request and obtain the police report for your records.



4. Document and exchange information.

Gather and exchange info --including driver and passenger names, numbers, addresses, license plate numbers, insurance info, makes and models of all vehicles involved, eyewitness contact info, and the name/badge number of the responding police officer(s).

Document the scene. Use your phone! Take as many pictures as possible of the accident scene and damage to your vehicle. This will be crucial during the claims process.

5. Call the insurance company and DO NOT admit guilt.

Be sure to get in contact with your insurance company, but do not admit guilt.

As a matter of fact, do not admit guilt and do not apologize for anything at the scene of the accident. At the time, it may seem natural to get out of your car and shout, "I'm so sorry I ran that red light.. are you okay?", but do not do this. You may be admitting legal liability for what happened. Do not unnecessarily admit guilt.

6. Be wary of early settlement offers.

Consult a Personal Injury Attorney before signing any settlement documents because physical injuries may not have been fully treated and you want to make sure you are compensated for your injuries.

It's virtually impossible to be "fully-prepared" for a car accident, but here are some tips to help better prepare you for an accident BEFORE it happens.

BEFORE A CAR ACCIDENT:

1. Keep a safety kit in your car including: a first aid kit, flashlight, equipment for keeping traffic clear of the accident (such as cones, emergency flares, etc.).
2. Keep important documents ready (driver's license, insurance information, vehicle registration, health plan info, etc.).
3. Always keep an extra phone charger in your car.
4. Keep loose items in the center or glove box to avoid items getting lost or causing damage.

INTERESTED IN A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT ATTORNEY?

If you are seeking an attorney for a car accident case, we can help! Accident cases need to be handled delicately and by a professional, so let the Georgia Injury Advocates help you today. We have office convenient to Marietta, GA. Don't wait another minute; contact us today to set up a free consultation.





RAMIRO RODRIGUEZ, JR.

Owner Georgia Injury Advocates

Most of us have a childhood moment that inspires us to think about who we would be when we grew up. For Attorney Ramiro Rodriguez, it was when he was seven years old and was accompanying his uncle to a consultation with an attorney. Not only was the attorney very vague about his uncle's rights, he wanted to be paid first, in cash, and would not even give a receipt! At that time, young Ramiro was worried the attorney would not help his uncle, and might even steal from him. His uncle was more scared and confused after he hired the attorney!

Attorney Rodriguez will always remember that moment. That is why Georgia Injury Advocates treats each and every person who comes to us for help like they are a best friend. Friends are there when you need them. And so are we.

Ramiro Rodriguez, Jr. is a native-born Texan who was born in McAllen, Texas and graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M. He then went on to earn his J.D. from John Marshall School of Law, where he was an active member of the law review and graduated cum laude.

As a compassionate personal injury lawyer, Ramiro Rodriguez, Jr. is an efficient and effective warrior for justice. He has personally tried cases ranging from automobile and tractor-trailer accidents, to slip and falls and dog bites, and welcomes the opportunity to advocate for you too.