

# Highway Safety:

What to do When You've Been in an Accident.

---

By Jason M. Pottenger, Attorney

August 2014

# Highway Safety:

## What to do When You've Been in an Accident.

---

There are millions of people on the roadways every day with a number of different factors that affect how each of them drive—noisy passengers, phone calls, text messages, GPS, etc.—and each year, there are more than 2.36 million car accidents; a staggering statistic. If you're lucky, you won't be a part of that statistic, but odds are, at some point in your lifetime, you will get into a car accident.

Car accidents are unexpected, stressful, and often throw a wrench in your day, week, or even your lifetime—but here are a few tips to help if you are in an accident.

### Get Help:

Safety first. Call 911 if anyone has been hurt or injured. Medical care can be critical right after an accident. If you are able to move your car to the side of the road, do so, and be sure to turn your hazards on to alert oncoming traffic.

### Notify the Police:

It doesn't matter if the accident is minor, call the police. They can create a report of the accident, which sometimes helps speed up the claims process, and can come in handy if you end up in a court case.

### Get Critical Information:

You should collect as much information as you can from the driver of the other vehicle. Don't be afraid to ask. You should get the following information:

- Full name, address, and phone number
- Insurance information – provider, policy number, effective dates
- The year, make, model, and color of their car
- License plate number

You should also take pictures of the accident scene and all cars involved, as well as make sure the insurance, registration, and the driver info is the same. If not, be sure to jot down the relationship of the person or people.

## Identify Witnesses:

Look around and see who may have witnessed what happened. Don't be afraid to approach them and ask them for their name and phone number—their eye-witness account could make or break your legal case.

## Do Not Discuss Fault:

Be polite and courteous, but do not discuss fault, even if you think you were at fault. Stick to the facts when talking to police, your insurance company, and anyone else.

## Write Everything Down:

It doesn't matter how miniscule the detail, write it down. Document the specific damages to the vehicles, where people were standing, the weather, and anything else. Draw sketches or diagrams if you can remember, but do it as quickly as you can because memories fade and over time your perception can change.

## Get Checked Out:

If your injuries didn't require you to leave the scene of the accident in an ambulance, don't wait to get checked out. Get to the Emergency Room as quickly as possible. It's important to get treatment necessary, as well as to document your injuries.

**Lastly, call your insurance company and report your claim.**

If you or someone you love has been injured in an accident and someone else is to blame, The Pottenger Law Firm LLC, may be able to help. Our Kansas City personal injury attorneys are committed to fighting for the financial compensation our clients deserve. To learn more about how we may be able to help you and your family, please contact us today by calling 816-531-6006.