

Motor Vehicle Accident Toolkit

Time is of the essence in the moments following a motor vehicle accident. It will be crucial for you, if you are able, to collect certain information at the accident scene.

In the hours, days and months following a motor vehicle accident, you will have to deal with bodily injury, property damage, doctor's visits, and/or insurance company questions. It's a lot to handle by yourself. You don't have to handle this alone. Let Maridi Huggins Law, LLC help guide you through this process.

As mentioned above, there are important things you must do at the accident scene and beyond to preserve and build robust evidence. The below "toolkit" will help you get started. The stronger the evidence, the stronger your claim. This can have a positive effect on maximizing your financial compensation.

This is not a legal document, and it does not establish an attorney-client relationship. However, it does offer valuable information that can help you sort out your thoughts and keep your claim moving forward.

Maridi Huggins Law, LLC offers free consultations to talk about your car, tractor-trailer or commercial vehicle accident. Call us today at 205-616-1786.

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Maridi Huggins Law, LLC P.O. Box 43272, Birmingham, AL 35243 Tel: 205-616-1786 Facsimile: 205-449-2178 Email: <u>Maridi@MaridiHugginsLaw.com</u> www.MaridiHugginsLaw.com



WHAT TO DO AT THE ACCIDENT SCENE?

- Call the police and make sure an accident report is filed.
- Take pictures of your vehicle, the other vehicle and the accident scene.
- If you are injured, tell someone, namely the investigating officer and the paramedics.
- Get the medical attention you need, as quickly as you need it.
- Take notes about all elements of the accident, as close in time to the accident as possible.

ACCIDENT SCENE JOURNAL

- 1) Date and Time of the accident:
- 2) Where did the accident occur?
- 3) Describe the accident in as much detail as possible:
- 4) Note the weather conditions, roadway conditions, and anything else that is pertinent about the environment at the accident scene:

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- 5) Do you remember anything about the other driver? For example, was she/he obviously impaired, did you smell alcohol, was she/he angry, was she/he distracted? Was the driver using a cell phone while driving?
- 6) Who did you talk to at the accident scene? Record the details of these conversations.
- 7) Names and contact information of passengers in your car:
- 8) Did you hear anyone admit fault at the accident scene? If so, who?
- 9) Names and contact information of passengers in the other vehicle(s):
- 10) Name and contact information of other driver:

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11) Other driver's auto insurance information (insurance company; named insured; policy number):

12) Your auto insurance information (insurance company; named insured; policy number):

13) Name of agency(s) who arrived at the accident scene:

*For example, Birmingham City Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Birmingham Fire and Rescue, etc.

14) Did you talk about your injuries with anyone at the accident scene? If so, describe those conversations.

[scroll below to see what to do after the accident]

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WHAT TO DO AFTER THE ACCIDENT?

- Get the medical attention you need, as quickly as you need it.
- Talk to an attorney as soon as you can after the accident.
- Do not talk to the other driver's insurance company refer them to your attorney.
- Take notes about your medical treatment using the below.
- Keep a diary of your pain, suffering and mental anguish.
- Keep track of your out-of-pocket expenses, including mileage to/from doctor's appointments.

POST-ACCIDENT JOURNAL

- 1) Did you go to a hospital, emergency room or other type of medical facility after the accident?
- 2) If so, where did you receive treatment and who treated you? List the names and addresses of these facilities and physicians.
- 3) What injuries were you treated for?

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- 4) Did you receive any x-rays or MRIs? If so, when and where?
- 5) List all pain medications that you have been prescribed since the accident:
- 6) List any diagnosis you have received since the accident:
- 7) How are your injuries affecting you? Can you work? Can you perform household chores? Are you sleeping?
- 8) What activities (recreational and otherwise) are you no longer able to perform?
- 9) Did your car sustain property damage? What type? Do you have pictures?

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10) Did the other vehicle(s) involved in the accident sustain property damage? Do you have pictures?

11) Have you talked to your insurance company? If so, when, with whom and what was said?

12) Have you talked to the other driver's insurance company? If so, when, with whom and what was said?

13) Purchase a folder and place all medical records and bills in this folder.

14) In a separate folder, keep all property damage estimates, receipts, photos of property damage, etc.

15) Purchase a journal and record your:

- pain, suffering, and mental anguish;
- out-of-pocket costs, including mileage for doctor's appointments;
- a log of how your life is being interrupted by your injuries;
- an activity log that details with whom you have spoken regarding the accident, including name and call back number; and,
- anything else you feel is pertinent to this accident that you would want your attorney to know.
- 16) Do not forget to contact an experienced personal injury attorney as soon as possible after an accident so that she/he can get started on your claim.

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