



**PATTERSON
LAW GROUP**
PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS

POST-COLLISION CHECKLIST

WHAT TO DO AFTER A CAR WRECK

1

CHECK FOR INJURIES & REMAIN AT THE SCENE

First and foremost, check yourself and others for injuries. If you're involved in a car wreck, Texas law requires you to stay at the scene of the crash if there is damage to the vehicles or if the wreck resulted in bodily injuries to any person involved.

2

GET OUT OF HARM'S WAY

If your vehicle is in a dangerous position that may cause more harm to you or others on the road, it is vital to move the vehicle to a safe area. If possible, pull into the emergency lane or a nearby parking lot and turn on hazard lights. Only get out of the car if it's safe.

3

EXCHANGE INFO WITH PARTIES INVOLVED

Texas law requires the parties involved to exchange insurance coverage information at the crash site. We recommend taking photos of all parties' driver licenses, insurance cards, and vehicle registration information as available.

4

CALL 911

Dial 911 to report the collision. Police will be dispatched, and an officer will investigate the factors that contributed to causing the wreck to determine who was at-fault and file a crash report.

5

REQUEST MEDICAL CARE

If you feel any pain or new sensations after the collision - even something as small as lightheadedness or a headache - request an ambulance. Certain medical conditions don't manifest until later but can be detected during an initial assessment.

6

GATHER & PRESERVE EVIDENCE

Take photos and videos of the scene and surrounding area, e.g., the position of the vehicles, tire marks, broken glass, deployed airbags, nearby surveillance cameras, etc. Be sure to get contact info from any eyewitnesses.

7

CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE AGENT

As soon as you can, notify your car insurance company (not theirs) of the car wreck. Make sure to tell the claims adjuster if you were injured in the collision. Do not speak to the other party's insurance without legal representation.

8

PURCHASE THE CRASH REPORT

You will need a copy of the crash report to process your insurance claim. Reports are usually available for pickup from local law enforcement agencies within 7-10 days of the crash or can be purchased online at www.txdot.gov.

9

START A DIARY & KEEP RECORDS

Keeping a diary of how the wreck continues to affect your daily life, as well as copies of all medical bills and car repair receipts, is very important after a car wreck. As days go by, certain details become foggy, so it is essential to keep a detailed log.

10

CONTACT AN ATTORNEY ASAP

The right legal team can walk you step-by-step through this complicated and stressful process. Do not delay in seeking proper legal representation, as it is essential to properly preserve evidence and meet deadlines. We're here for you when you need us.

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