



What To Do After A Car Accident

Following a car accident, the steps you take could greatly affect the outcome of your claim. It's more complicated than just exchanging insurance information and reporting the accident to your insurance company.

- **Secure the scene:**

Safety should be your top priority. If your vehicle is in harm's way, move it to prevent another accident from occurring. But if it is safe to do so, take pictures first to preserve evidence.
- **Check on the other driver and passengers:**

If there are any passengers in your vehicle, check on them immediately. You should also check to see if the other driver, and any passengers in the other vehicle, are okay. If anyone is injured, call for an ambulance.
- **Call the police immediately:**

No matter how minor your auto accident may seem, you should always call the police. They can document your accident and create an official police accident report – something insurance companies often review carefully when calculating compensation for accident victims. Make sure you get your own copy of the police report.
- **Trade information with the other driver:**

You should always exchange your phone number, insurance information and license information with the other driver. This information will be necessary to file an accident claim.
- **Take photos of the accident scene:**

Documenting the accident scene with photos helps gather important facts about the crash that can later be used to build a strong claim. You should also take pictures of any visible injuries.
- **Speak to witnesses:**

If someone saw your accident, talk to them. Get statements from them. Make sure you get their personal information, including their full name, address and phone number. That way, investigators can talk to them later if they need to follow up as part of their investigating. Witness statements can be critical pieces of evidence.
- **Contact your insurance company:**

Call your insurance company and tell them you've been in an accident. But keep your comments to a minimum and stick to the facts of what happened. And if someone from the other driver's insurance company calls you, don't give them any information; just direct them to contact your attorney. Anything you say can later be used to downplay or deny your claim.

Let Our Experienced Attorneys Handle The Rest

As soon as possible after an accident, contact NLE Law. We can help you every step of the way. An experienced Seattle car accident lawyer at our law firm can serve as your legal advocate and demand that your rights are respected.

If insurance companies have any questions, we'll be glad to answer on your behalf, so you can focus on your recovery. We can negotiate with the negligent driver's insurance company. And if they refuse to pay, we can take them to trial.

When You've Been Hurt, We Can Help.

Contact Nelson Langer Engle, PLLC online or simply call our Seattle office at
206.623.7520

Your best interests matter here.