



{ AFTER AN ACCIDENT



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT

**This is the most commonly asked question when someone is involved in a car accident. The answer is to get as much information as possible!**

Many people get nervous, upset and confused when they are involved in an auto accident. Even a simple fender bender can give you a good case of the jitters. On top of that you worry about the possibility of your insurance rates going up and whether you will be found to be at fault for the accident.

These things can cause people to forget to obtain the necessary and sometimes vital information which would make the difference later on in determining who was truly at fault.

### The following is a list of essential information to obtain:

- Write down the names, addresses, telephone numbers and driver's license numbers of all drivers involved in the accident.
- Write down the year, make, model, color and license number of each car involved in the accident.
- Ask to see the registration for the car and take down the same information for the owner of each car involved.
- Write down the name of the insurance company as well as the policy number for all drivers involved.
- Write down the names, addresses and phone numbers of all witnesses to the accident. Get both their home and work information so they can be reached if they are needed to help determine facts later regarding fault for the accident.
- Write down the location of the accident: the streets or inter sections involved, whether they are controlled by traffic signals or stop signs, the direction and specific traffic lane that each car was traveling in just before the accident.
- Other useful information which may be helpful are the weather conditions at the time of the accident (i.e. raining, foggy, etc.) and surface conditions of the roadway where the accident occurred.
- If possible, make a diagram of the accident noting the positions of the cars involved in the accident before and after the collision.
- Write down the date, and particularly, the time of accident.

The question of who is responsible or at fault for the accident should be dealt with at a later time when you are thinking clearly.

### **Do not admit fault for the accident!**

Speak with an attorney before you accept any fault whatsoever. You may think you were at fault for the accident and then learn that it was the other driver's fault.

If after the accident you should have questions regarding repair of your car, injuries suffered in the accident, doctor or hospital bills incurred as a result of the accident or time lost from work due to the accident, consult with a competent attorney who limits his practice to personal injury work.

Attorneys who specialize in Personal Injury work handle these matters on a contingency basis, which means you pay no fee. The attorney receives his fee at the conclusion of the matter based on a percentage of what he recovers for you.

**Call our office and we will be happy to send you a folder to keep in your car to take down information if you are involved in an auto accident.**