

What to Do After an Accident in Virginia

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Keep this checklist in your vehicle or with important household papers. Safety and medical needs always come first.

AT THE SCENE

- ☐ Move away from continuing danger when it is safe to do so.
- ☐ Call 911 when anyone may be injured or the scene is unsafe.
- ☐ Give accurate facts; do not guess, argue, apologize as an admission, or assign percentages of fault.
- ☐ Identify drivers, vehicle owners, businesses, witnesses, and responding agencies.
- ☐ Photograph the overall scene, traffic controls, conditions, property damage, and visible injuries.
- ☐ Ask witnesses for telephone and email information.
- ☐ Preserve damaged property and original photographs or videos.

DURING THE FIRST DAYS

- ☐ Obtain appropriate medical evaluation and describe symptoms honestly and completely.
- ☐ Report the event to insurers as required, but be cautious with detailed recorded statements.
- ☐ Do not sign broad medical authorizations, releases, assignments, or final settlement documents without understanding them.
- ☐ Identify surveillance video, electronic data, and physical evidence that may be lost.
- ☐ Keep a provider list, bills, explanations of benefits, prescriptions, work notes, receipts, and correspondence.
- ☐ Avoid discussing the accident, injuries, or activities on social media.
- ☐ Obtain advice promptly if injuries persist, fault is disputed, or a public or commercial entity is involved.

INFORMATION TO COLLECT

Date and time _____

Exact location _____

Police or incident report number _____

Witness contacts _____

Insurance claim numbers _____

Medical providers _____

Days missed from work _____

Important deadlines discussed with counsel _____

Important Virginia generally applies a two year filing period to personal injury actions, but shorter notice periods and special rules may apply. This checklist is educational and is not a substitute for advice about a specific case.