Steps to Take if You are Involved in an Auto Accident

Unfortunately, automobile accidents can happen to anyone. You should protect your legal rights by taking the proper steps after you are involved in an accident. Consult your attorney immediately if you are involved in an accident where you have issued a traffic summons, where there is personal injury or serious property damage.

Do I have to stop my car if I am involved in an automobile accident?

Yes. If you are involved in a car accident and do not stop, you most likely will be charged with leaving the scene of an accident, a charge that has very serious consequences.

Do I have to stop if I am involved in an auto accident?

Yes. If you are involved in an auto accident and you do not call the police, you can be charged with failure to report an accident. It is your duty to notify the police that an accident has occurred.

What should I do if I hit a parked car?

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If you hit a parked car and cannot locate the owner, make sure to leave a note with your name, address, and telephone number, so that the owner of the vehicle can contact you regarding the accident.

Should I see a doctor if I am involved in an auto accident?

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Yes. Both you and your passengers should seriously consider consulting with your family physician after being involved in an auto accident. The doctor may recognize symptoms of injuries that may not be apparent to you. Whatever you do, do not settle any claims from the accident until you have consulted with a doctor about the extent and nature of your injuries.

Should I notify my insurance agent if I am involved in an auto accident?

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Yes. Contact your insurance agent as soon as possible after an accident. Your insurance company may have grounds to deny coverage if you fail to promptly notify them of the accident. Follow up your phone conversation with a written letter notifying your insurance company of your accident, and make sure to save a copy for your files. The written notice should contain information about the date, time and place of the accident, with names and addresses of the other drivers, injured persons, passengers, and witnesses.

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