

# Steps to Take After a Car Crash — And When to Call a Lawyer

## Immediate Actions at the Scene

In the moments following a car crash, it's essential to remain calm and prioritize safety. If you're able, check yourself and others for injuries. If the accident is minor and the vehicles are drivable, move them to a safe location out of traffic to prevent further collisions. Turn on hazard lights to alert oncoming drivers. Always call emergency services, even for seemingly minor accidents. A police report is a critical document that will support any future insurance claims or legal proceedings. Avoid arguing or admitting fault at the scene — leave the determination of responsibility to the authorities and insurance companies. For more information visit [Kent auto accident attorney](#)



## Seek Medical Attention

Even if you feel fine, it's wise to get a medical evaluation as soon as possible. The adrenaline rush after an accident can mask symptoms of injuries such as concussions, internal bleeding, or whiplash, which may only appear hours or days later. Delaying treatment can worsen your condition and make it harder to link the injury to the accident in any legal or insurance context. Keep records of all medical

visits, tests, and treatments — they will be crucial if you need to pursue compensation later.

## **Document the Scene and Exchange Information**

While waiting for the police or emergency services to arrive, collect as much information as you can. This includes taking photos of vehicle damage, skid marks, road conditions, traffic signs, and injuries. Capture different angles and distances for context. Exchange names, contact information, insurance details, and driver's license numbers with the other driver. If there are witnesses, get their contact details as well. This documentation can serve as vital evidence should any disputes arise regarding the circumstances of the crash.

## **Notify Your Insurance Company**

Report the accident to your insurance provider as soon as possible, even if you believe you weren't at fault. Most insurers have strict timeframes for reporting accidents, and failure to notify them promptly could jeopardize your claim. Provide a clear and factual account of what happened, but avoid speculation or accepting blame. Your insurer will guide you through the next steps, including vehicle repair assessments, liability investigations, and possible compensation.

## **Understand When to Contact a Lawyer**

Not every accident requires a lawyer, but in certain situations, legal advice is highly recommended. If anyone was seriously injured or killed, or if there's significant damage to your vehicle, consulting a lawyer can help protect your rights. You should also seek legal help if fault is being disputed, if you feel pressured to accept a low settlement, or if your insurance claim is denied. A car accident lawyer can help you navigate the complexities of liability laws, deal with aggressive insurers, and ensure that you receive fair compensation for your injuries, lost wages, and other damages.

## **Legal Support for Complex Cases**

Some car crash cases involve more than just two drivers — for example, collisions involving commercial vehicles, rideshares, or defective car parts. These situations can quickly become complicated, requiring expert legal analysis and potentially multiple parties being held liable. A lawyer can help determine the full extent of your claim and bring in necessary specialists, such as accident reconstructionists or medical experts, to strengthen your case.

### **Time Limits and Legal Deadlines**

It's also important to be aware of the statute of limitations in your state — the legal deadline by which you must file a lawsuit. This period often ranges from one to three years after the date of the accident. Missing this deadline can permanently bar you from seeking compensation, no matter how strong your case may be. Speaking with a lawyer early can ensure you stay on track and avoid missing any critical deadlines.

### **Conclusion: Protecting Your Rights and Recovery**

A car crash can be a traumatic and confusing experience, but knowing what steps to take immediately afterward can make a significant difference in your recovery and legal outcome. While insurance may cover some of the costs, a lawyer can ensure you aren't left with uncovered medical bills, lost income, or long-term suffering without proper compensation. When in doubt, consulting a lawyer sooner rather than later can offer peace of mind and a clearer path forward.

### **Contact Us**

#### **Kent**

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