

Do You Need a Personal Injury Lawyer If You're the Victim of a Hit-and-Run?

A hit-and-run isn't just a car accident. It's an accident where the person who caused it drives away without taking responsibility. That means no police call, no information exchange, and often, no concern for whether anyone was hurt.

To legally qualify as a hit-and-run, the crash must involve either personal injury, property damage, or both, and the at-fault driver must flee the scene. But you don't need to be driving to be a victim. If someone hits your parked car and leaves without a note, or if you're walking and get struck by a vehicle that takes off, those are both considered hit-and-run incidents.

Why people flee the scene varies. They might be scared, uninsured, driving under the influence, or they just don't want to deal with the consequences. Whatever their reason, it's reckless, dangerous, and illegal. In Missouri, for example, a hit-and-run can be charged as a class A misdemeanor. If the crash caused a death, it could be a class D felony. Penalties can include fines, license suspension, and even jail time.

But for victims, legal consequences for the other driver are often the least of their concerns. If you've been through a hit-and-run, you're likely wondering how you're going to pay for your medical bills, how your car will be fixed, and how to make ends meet if you can't work. That's where a personal injury lawyer can help.

Why You Should Consider Talking to a Lawyer

The police will do what they can to find the person who hit you, but their job ends there. They're focused on criminal charges. If you want to recover lost wages, cover your medical expenses, or get compensation for your pain and suffering, you'll need to file a civil claim, and that's something a personal injury lawyer can handle for you.

A qualified attorney can review your case, explain your options, and help you understand what kind of compensation you may be entitled to. Even if the at-fault driver isn't found, you may still be able to make a claim through your uninsured motorist coverage. This can cover medical bills, lost wages, and pain and suffering, even if you weren't driving at the time of the accident. It will not, however, cover damage to your car or other property.

Meeting with a lawyer doesn't mean you're committing to a lawsuit. It's about getting the facts and knowing your rights. Most people find that a consultation alone brings some peace of mind, especially when they're already dealing with a stressful and overwhelming situation.

Let Us Help You Move Forward

At Eng & Woods Attorneys at Law, we work with hit-and-run victims every day. Whether the other driver has been found or not, we're here to help you understand your coverage, work with your insurance company, and fight for the compensation you deserve. These cases can get complicated quickly, but you don't have to go through it alone.

If you've been the victim of a hit-and-run, call us. We'll walk you through the next steps and help you get back on your feet.