

# Everything You Need to Know About Car Crashes



Fasig | Brooks  
PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS



## About Us.

### WELCOME

Fasig | Brooks has been serving the injured in Florida for over 30 years. We know that life is uncertain and that a single incident can turn it completely upside down. Our goal as Tallahassee personal injury attorneys is to help those who have been injured by negligence and wrongdoing to seek justice and recover fair compensation. The recovery from a personal injury case can make a significant difference in helping an individual or family put the pieces back together to face a more stable future.

At our firm, we believe in providing compassionate, caring service to every one of our clients. We know that this is most likely the worst experience you have ever endured, and we want to ease the burden. With our experience in personal injury law, we know how to approach any type of injury claim in the appropriate manner based on your circumstances and your needs. With our resources as a large firm, we can take on any opponent. As seasoned trial lawyers, we are not afraid to take your case to court.

### Personal Injury Lawyers

DESTIN, TALLAHASSEE, JACKSONVILLE  
@fasigbrooks



### Results-Driven, Efficient Personal Injury Representation

We know that you are dealing with a difficult situation and that you need the highest settlement or award possible, in the least amount of time. With our insurance defense experience, we know how the other side operates. We know what needs to be done to facilitate a fair settlement and how to put the necessary pressure on an insurance provider to work more quickly to resolve a claim. Placing your best interests first, we fight for maximum compensation as efficiently as possible.

Get started on your case today. We are here for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

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## Contents

### 1.

#### Introduction to Car Wrecks

Car wrecks are distressing and chaotic events, and being prepared can help minimize their impact on your life. In this section, you'll learn the importance of understanding what to do if you're in a wreck, as well as how being informed in advance can make all the difference following an incident involving any kind of vehicle collision.

### 2.

#### What to Do Immediately After a Collision

Immediately after a car crash, it is crucial to prioritize safety, for you, your passengers, and anyone else involved. We outline step by step what you need to do right after an incident. Review and remember exactly what you need to do to protect your interests.

### 3.

#### Gathering Information at the Scene

This section provides a comprehensive checklist of information to gather at the scene of an incident. From names and contact information to insurance details and witness statements, we will cover everything you need to document for insurance claims and potential legal proceedings. Print this and keep in your vehicle so you can reference it if necessary.

### 4.

#### Understanding your Legal Rights

It's critical for you to understand the legal aspects of vehicle collisions, including your rights and responsibilities. We explain liability, insurance claims, and the possible types of compensation available.

### 5.

#### Frequently Asked Questions

There are many common questions you may have about being in a vehicle collision. We aim to alleviate your concerns and empower you to navigate the aftermath of an incident with confidence.



# Introduction to Car Wrecks

Car wrecks are unexpected events that have serious consequences for everyone involved. Whether it's a minor fender-bender or a more serious collision, you can be sure it will be a stressful and overwhelming experience. However, being prepared and knowing what to do will make an amazing difference in how you handle the situation and come back stronger afterward.

This information is designed to provide you with valuable guidance on what to do if you are involved in any kind of vehicle collision. We will walk you through the immediate steps to take at the scene, help you understand your legal rights, as well as share how to navigate the insurance claims process. We aim to empower you with the knowledge and resources you need to protect yourself and your interests.

It is imperative that you know what steps to take right away

if a collision occurs, including how to ensure everyone's safety, gather essential information, and seeking medical attention. We will also educate you on your legal rights in relation to the incident, including liability, insurance claims, and the types of compensation to which you may be entitled.

Additionally, we will address some frequently asked questions about car crashes, providing clarity on common concerns and helping you navigate the complexities of the aftermath of a collision. Whether you are a seasoned or new driver, this booklet is designed to be a valuable resource for anyone who may one day find themselves involved in crash involving any kind of vehicle.

Remember, being informed and prepared will make all the difference. We hope this will empower you to handle any collision with confidence and clarity.





# What to Do Immediately After a Collision

Being involved in a crash is a disorienting experience, to say the least. It is essential to stay calm and focus on taking the necessary steps to ensure your safety and protect your interests. Here is what you should do if you ever find yourself in a collision of any kind:

## 1 ENSURE SAFETY

First and foremost, check yourself and others for injuries. If anyone is injured, call emergency services (911) immediately.

Remove yourself and other passengers from the vehicle right away if there is any concern of the vehicle's safety after the crash. Prioritize the safety of everyone in your vehicle over any personal items or the vehicle itself.

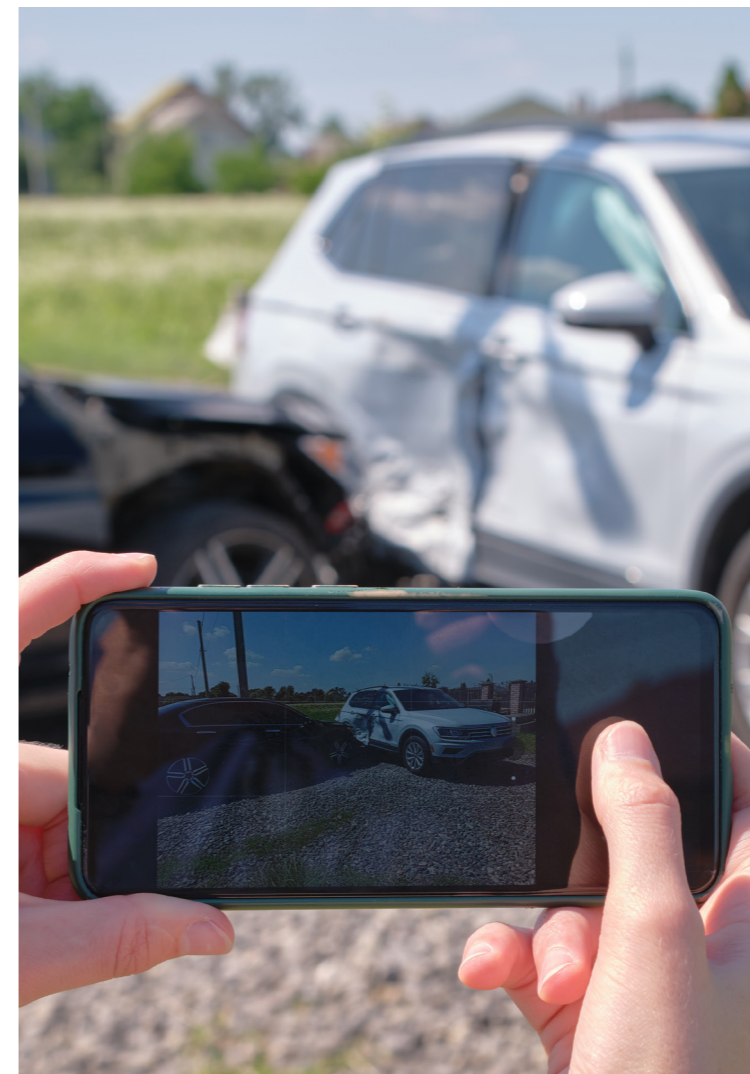
If it is safe to do so, move vehicles out of the flow of traffic to prevent further wrecks. Pull over to the closest median and wait for assistance.

## 2 CALL THE POLICE

Once everyone is safe and the police have been called, take photos of the scene of the incident, including the vehicles involved, damage to the vehicles, skid marks, road conditions, and traffic signs or signals. If anyone in your vehicle has any visible injuries, document those immediately. These photos can serve as valuable evidence when filing insurance claims or pursuing legal action. Also try to note if there are any traffic cameras in the area that may have recorded the incident.

Keep an eye out for local businesses that may have security cameras as well, you may be able to gain access to those records to help your claim.

Additionally, note if there were any witnesses on the scene who may have either seen or documented the incident. Could the collision have been captured on anyone's dash camera? Take down the names and contact information of anyone who could support your statement about what happened.





**3 DON'T ENGAGE**

Do your best to communicate as little as possible with anyone from other vehicles involved. If you are safe and unharmed and feel the need to check on their safety, you may do so.

Do not say anything related to what caused the collision, who was at fault, or anyone's physical condition after the incident. Stick to the facts when speaking with police and other parties involved. Admitting fault prematurely can complicate any future claims or legal actions.

Above all else, do NOT agree to anyone offering to make a financial payment at the scene for your damages. Do NOT agree to taking their information with the understanding that you will calculate the cost of your damages, so they can provide payment at a later date.

In general, do not discuss anything with anyone outside of your vehicle without the police present, and if you're on the phone, be careful about anything you say being overheard.

**4 CALL THE POLICE**

Regardless of the severity of the crash, it is important to contact law enforcement right away. They will document the scene, gather statements from the involved parties and witnesses, and create an official report, which may be crucial for insurance claims and legal proceedings. Be sure to give a detailed of what happened and provide the officer with all photos or videos you've documented.

**5 EXCHANGE INFORMATION**

Once the responding officer is on the scene, you may then exchange contact

and insurance information with the other parties involved.

Be sure to collect their names, addresses, phone numbers, insurance policy numbers and vehicle information – such as make, model and license plate numbers. Type it all in your phone, and show it to them to confirm it is correct.

Do not accept anything written by hand from the other parties, as their writing could be illegible and leave you without valuable information.

**6 SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION**

Even if you don't think you are seriously injured, it's important to seek medical attention as soon as possible after a car wreck. Some injuries may not be immediately apparent, and delaying treatment could worsen your condition.

***Go to the emergency room or urgent care right away to have an assessment.***

Immediate medical treatment will allow you to file a claim on your Personal Injury Protection (PIP) insurance policy. PIP is a policy that is required by the State of Florida for any vehicle registration. It will cover 80% of all necessary medical expenses up to \$10,000 as long as you seek medical treatment within fourteen days of the collision.

**7 REPORT THE CRASH**

Notify your insurance company of the incident as soon as possible. Provide them with accurate and detailed information about the wreck and follow their instructions for filing your claim.

Be careful about what you share with the adjuster, and stick to the facts. Do not make any admission of guilt.

**8 FOLLOW THE MEDICAL TREATMENT PLAN**

Do not ignore any advice regarding follow up treatment from the medical professionals who see you after the collision. Take the medication they prescribe as directed, and attend all follow-up consultation appointments they recommend for you.

If you neglect to attend follow-up appointments, you will lack evidence that your injuries were significant enough to seriously impact your life. This is difficult, since often in the wake of a collision, transportation issues complicate attending appointments. If you absolutely cannot be present for an appointment, call the office and reschedule. Avoid being marked in their system as a "no show."

**9 KEEP RECORDS**

Keep detailed written records of all expenses you incur related to the wreck, including medical bills, repair costs, transportation costs, lost wages, and any other out-of-pocket expenses. These records will be important for insurance claims and potential legal proceedings.

Make a note of anything intangible that is lost – major life events that you had to miss because of the injuries you sustained or activities in which you would have participated but cannot because of the incident.

**10 CONTACT AN ATTORNEY**

Fasig Brooks offers free consultations over the phone or in person to anyone who may have a valid personal injury claim. A qualified attorney can review your claim and advise you on the wisest next steps to take after an incident. They will tell you if your claim is strong



enough to warrant retaining an attorney to ensure you get fairly compensated for your losses.

Fasig Brooks also has relationships with doctors and other medical practitioners who can assist you in recovering from injuries sustained in the collision. We will ensure you get the best medical care and treatment possible.

By following these steps, you can ensure that you are taking the necessary actions to protect yourself and your interests after a vehicle collision. Remember, your safety and well-being are the top priorities.



# Gathering information at the Scene

**Gathering accurate and comprehensive information at the scene of a car crash is essential for insurance claims and legal proceedings. Here is a checklist of important information to collect. We recommend you print this and keep it in your vehicle at all times. It will be helpful to easily access it in the event of a collision.**

## 1 **NAMES AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

Obtain the names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of all parties involved in the wreck, including drivers, passengers and witnesses.

## 2 **INSURANCE DETAILS**

Collect the insurance information of the other driver or drivers involved, including the name of the insurance company, policy number and contact information for the insurance agent.

## 3 **VEHICLE INFORMATION**

Record the make, model, year, color and license plate number of all vehicles involved in the wreck. Take note of any visible damage to the vehicles.

## 4 **WITNESS STATEMENTS**

If there are any witnesses to the crash, ask for their account of what happened and their contact information. Witness statements can provide valuable evidence in determining fault.

## 5 **PHOTOS OF THE SCENE**

Take photographs of the scene from multiple angles, capturing the positions of the vehicles, any damage sustained, road conditions, traffic signs or signals, and any other relevant details. Use a camera or a smartphone to document the scene thoroughly.

## 6 **POLICE REPORT**

Obtain a copy of the police report once it is available. The police report with contain valuable information about the incident, including the officer's observations, statements from involved

parties and witnesses, and any citations issued.

## 7 **DIAGRAM OF THE ACCIDENT**

Create a diagram or sketch of the scene, indicating the positions of the vehicles, the direction of travel, and any relevant landmarks or features. This visual representation can help clarify the sequence of events.

## 8 **OTHER DOCUMENTATION**

Keep any other documentation related to the wreck, such as medical records, repair estimates, towing receipts, and correspondence with insurance companies.

By diligently collecting this information at the scene of the wreck, you will have a solid foundation for filing insurance claims and pursuing legal action, if necessary. Remember to remain calm, courteous and cooperative when interacting with other parties and authorities.





# Understanding Your Legal Rights

After a car crash, it is essential to understand your legal rights and options for seeking compensation for damages. Here is what you need to know.

## 1 LIABILITY

— Determining liability is crucial in vehicle collisions. Liability is typically based on negligence, which occurs when a driver fails to execute reasonable care, resulting in harm to others. Understanding who was at fault is key to pursuing compensation.

## 2 INSURANCE CLAIMS

— Most vehicle incident cases involve filing insurance claims to cover damages. You have the right to file a claim with your insurance company and the other driver's insurance company, depending on the circumstances of the crash. Be prepared to provide documentation and cooperate with the claims process.

## 3 TYPES OF COMPENSATION

— Depending on the nature and severity of the crash, you may be entitled to various types of compensation, including:

- **Medical Expenses:** Coverage for medical bills, hospitalization, rehabilitation, and ongoing treatment related to injuries sustained in the wreck.
- **Property Damage:** Compensation for vehicle repair or replacement cost, as well as damage to personal belongings inside the vehicle.
- **Lost Wages:** Reimbursement for income lost due to inability to work as a result of crash-related injuries.
- **Pain and Suffering:** Compensation for physical pain, emotional distress, and diminished quality of life caused by the incident.

## 4 LEGAL REPRESENTATION

— While you have the right to represent yourself in a vehicle collision insurance claim, seeking legal representation will significantly increase your chances of obtaining fair compensation. The insurance company has a host of highly qualified attorneys at their disposal. Securing your own legal counsel serves to even the playing field and ensures that your interests are prioritized. A qualified attorney will advocate on your behalf, negotiate with insurance companies, and pursue legal action if necessary.

## 5 STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

— It's important to be aware of the statute of limitations for filing a personal injury claim or lawsuit related to a car crash. In both Florida and Georgia, the statute of limitations is generally two years following the date of the wreck or injury. Failing to file within the specified timeframe can result in forfeiting your right to seek compensation.

## 6 CONSULTATION WITH AN ATTORNEY

— If you are unsure about your legal rights or how to proceed after an incident, consider scheduling a consultation with a personal injury attorney, such as Fasig Brooks. At Fasig Brooks, we offer a free initial consultation, where we will assess your case, answer your questions, and provide guidance on the best possible course of action.

Understanding your legal rights and options is essential for protecting yourself and pursuing fair compensation after a car accident. By being informed and proactive, you can navigate the legal process with confidence and ensure your rights are upheld.





# FAQ

## Frequently Asked Questions

Here are answers to some common questions individuals may have following a car crash:

- 1 WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THE OTHER DRIVER DOESN'T HAVE INSURANCE?**

If the other driver is uninsured or underinsured, you may still have options for seeking compensation. Your own uninsured/underinsured motorist coverage may provide coverage for your damages. Additionally, you may explore other avenues for compensation, such as filing a lawsuit against the at-fault driver.
- 2 HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO FILE A CLAIM?**

The statute of limitations for filing a vehicle collision claim varies by state. In Florida and Georgia, it is typically two years after the date of the incident. It is important to file your claim within the specified timeframe to avoid losing your right to seek compensation. Consult with a legal professional to understand the statute of limitations in your state and ensure timely filing.

- 3 CAN I STILL CLAIM COMPENSATION OF THE CRASH WAS PARTIALLY MY FAULT?**

In many states, you may still be entitled to compensation even if you were partially at fault for the incident. However, your compensation may be reduced based on your degree of fault. This is known as comparative or contributory negligence, depending on the state's laws.

- 4 WHAT DAMAGES CAN I CLAIM?**

You may be able to claim various types of damages, including medical expenses, property damage, lost wages, pain and suffering, and other crash-related losses. Consult with a legal professional to understand the specific damages you may be entitled to depending on your circumstances.

- 5 HOW LONG CAN THE LEGAL PROCESS TAKE?**

The duration of the legal process varies depending on the complexity of the case, the cooperation of the involved parties, and other factors. Some car crash cases are resolved relatively quickly through insurance claims, while others may require litigation and can take longer to reach a resolution.

- 6 DO I NEED TO HIRE A LAWYER AFTER BEING IN A CAR WRECK?**

While it is possible to handle a car wreck case on your own, hiring an attorney can provide several advantages. Insurance companies employ many expert defense attorneys to provide counsel on the claims submitted to injured parties. Retaining your own attorney ensures you have the same benefit as the other side and makes sure that your interests are prioritized in how the claim is resolved. A lawyer can navigate the complexities of the legal process, advocate on your behalf, negotiate with insurance companies, and ensure that your rights are protected.



## These are just a few examples of the questions you may have after a car wreck.

If you have specific concerns or questions about your case, don't hesitate to call Fasig Brooks for all the information you need.



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