



Auto Accident Checklist

The following statements, questions and answers are presented for general informational purposes only, are not specific legal advice applicable to any particular case, are subject to exceptions, and generally relate to Louisiana law. Do not rely upon these general questions and answers in making legal decisions.

What should I do if I am in an accident?

- Try to stay calm. Panic can make others panic and the situation worse.
- Determine if there are any injuries that need immediate medical attention.
- Report all accidents to the police immediately.
- Discuss the Car Accident Only with the Police
- Fill out your SR-10 form if the police officer gives one to you.
- Keep all notes and documents relating to the accident.
- Try to obtain all witnesses names and addresses.
- Take photos of the accident scene including your car, cars involved and the accident scene.
- Notify your own insurance company so they will have a record.

Auto Accident Frequent Questions:

Question:

Do I need a lawyer?

Answer:

This is a decision that you must make based upon all of your circumstances. Our firm has extensive experience representing individuals that have been injured in automobile accidents. The benefits of having an attorney include having the attorney deal with the insurance company for you, advising you with respect to your claims, providing you with advice regarding the value of your claims based upon years of experience. Some studies have shown that accident victims that are represented by attorneys receive higher recoveries in settlement than those that are not represented.

Question:

How much does it cost to hire an attorney?

Answer:

Our firm represents most accident victims for a contingency fee. This means that we will be paid a percentage of the amount of money we can make the insurance company pay you. If for any reason the insurance company does not have to pay you, you will not owe any attorney fee. In most automobile accident cases, the contingency fee will range from 25% to 1/3 of the amount recovered for you. Generally, cases which can be settled without a lawsuit being filed will be charged a lower contingency fee. Our attorney's fee will be agreed upon with you in writing at the beginning of your case.

Question:

Will I be charged for a consultation?

Answer:

No. We do not charge for an initial consultation in accident cases. We will come to your hospital room or to your home if you are unable to come to our office. You do not incur any obligation by making your first telephone call to us.