



# PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS AFTER A CAR ACCIDENT



**-STRONG-GARNER-BAUER-**  
TRIAL ATTORNEYS

# PROTECTING YOUR RIGHTS

When a car accident occurs, there are a number of problems that can arise when filing a claim, deciding what legal action exists, and more. Those who suffer injuries as a result of a crash may be unsure of what to do and what comes next, and we're here to help.

Thank you for taking the time to check out our eBook and learn more about your rights as a car accident victim.

In the following pages, you'll learn some of the steps you should take, what evidence is needed to file a claim, and the ways you can pursue compensation. We also offer a checklist that you can have with you at all times in the event an accident occurs so you can ensure you're doing all you can to protect your rights to the most of your abilities.



# YOUR CAR ACCIDENT CHECKLIST

Here are the immediate steps you should take after an accident and why.

- Get to Safety**
  - \* If possible, move your vehicle out of the road and ensure you and your passengers are on the sidewalk. Staying on the road after an accident puts you at risk of even more danger.
  
- Report the Accident**
  - \* Be sure to report your accident to your insurance company and to the proper authorities. Police reports are necessary when injuries exist and there are damages exceeding a specific amount. A police report is also helpful to your claim.
  
- Exchange Necessary Information**
  - \* Exchanging information is vital to filing a claim properly. You should get the other driver's insurance information, vehicle information, and driver's license. You want to ensure you have as much contact information to provide to your insurance company.
  
- Take Photos**
  - \* Taking photos can provide you with great evidence for your claim. You should take photos of the scene where the accident occurred, damage to both vehicles, and visible injuries. A picture is worth a thousand words—and they're essential pieces of evidence for you.
  
- Get Medical Treatment**
  - \* Your health is of the utmost importance and you want to ensure you are receiving the necessary medical treatment to properly recover. You can also use the medical records as a helpful piece of evidence to prove that you indeed suffer an injury.
  
- Speak with a Legal Advocate**
  - \* Because claims can be complicated, and you're not always guaranteed to receive compensation, you may want to speak with a legal professional about your rights. Having a lawyer advise you of what to do next can be very helpful so you don't do things that can jeopardize your case.

Print this page, keep it in your vehicle(s), and if you are ever in an accident, mark off each box so you know you're taking the right steps to pursue compensation

## WHAT YOU WANT TO AVOID

There are some actions and statements that can damage your case and your ability to pursue justice. It's imperative that you avoid these things to protect your rights.

- ✦ **Do NOT Make Assumptions Regarding Fault:** Even if you feel you were at fault for the accident, do not admit to it. Don't assume you caused the accident as it could be something that is used against you.
- ✦ **Do NOT Apologize or Make Other Potentially Damaging Statements:** Saying you are sorry or making other claims such as, "I didn't see you," can be used against you. The other driver's insurance company may try to claim that this was an admittance of fault.
- ✦ **Do NOT Post Damaging Photos On Social Media:** If you are injured as a result of the crash, photos on social media can be used against you if they contradict your injury claims. Avoid posting about the case as well.
- ✦ **Do NOT Hesitate to Get Medical Attention:** If you wait too long to get medical attention, the other party's insurance company may try to say that you received the injury in a separate incident and use it as a way to deny your claim.
- ✦ **Do NOT Try to Go Through the Process Alone:** There are a number of different intricacies involved in personal injury claims and going through it alone can prevent you from getting the results you need. The insurance company may try to take advantage of your rights if you're without legal representation.



# YOUR RIGHTS AFTER AN ACCIDENT

You should know that after a car accident caused by someone else's negligent actions, you have the right to hire legal representation to help you get through the difficult process. You have the right to hold the other party responsible and pursue justice and compensation for the damages you have sustained.

You may be able to seek compensation for economic damages such as medical bills, lost income, and other expenses associated with the monetary losses, as well as non-economic damages for pain and suffering resulting from the accident.

With a lawyer on your side, you can protect yourself from the tactics often presented by the negligent party's insurance company and their large legal teams. The insurance company may try to offer a low settlement, deny your claim outright, or even try to put you at fault for the accident.

If you've been involved in a car accident caused by someone else's actions, Strong-Garner-Bauer protects the rights of those injured by negligence. Our Springfield car accident lawyers are committed to justice and go the extra mile to protect our clients' rights every step of the way.

