

7 Tips On What To Do When You Are In An Automobile Accident

Unlike vacations and retirements, it is very difficult to plan for the aftermath of a Florida automobile accident. Most people are put into a bit of a frenzy following a crash in which **many questions, issues, and challenges arise**. This is especially true when a person suffers personal injuries as a result of an automobile accident.

The attorneys at [Wood, Atter & Wolf, P.A.](#) have the knowledge, experience, and passion to get the job done. We literally wrote the book on personal injury law in the areas of automobile accidents, trucking accidents, motorcycle accidents, and bicycle accidents. Check out our library of [12 personal injury books](#) that have been published over the past 10 years.

Here are 7 tips to keep in mind in case you are in a crash one day OR if you, a family member, or friend are put in the unfortunate situation of being in an automobile accident.



1 - Stay Calm. This is a simple but important tip. To the extent possible, it is helpful to remain calm because there will be a number of things to do at the scene of an accident and thereafter.

2 - Contact the Police. While there may be a request by the at-fault driver to avoid calling the police, it is helpful to have the police show up and collect statements/information from you, the other driver, and witnesses. Recollections can change over time, so it is important to capture this information as soon as possible with the help of law enforcement. Insurance companies tend to challenge cases in which there is no police report a bit more than the cases in which there is a well-documented police report in place.

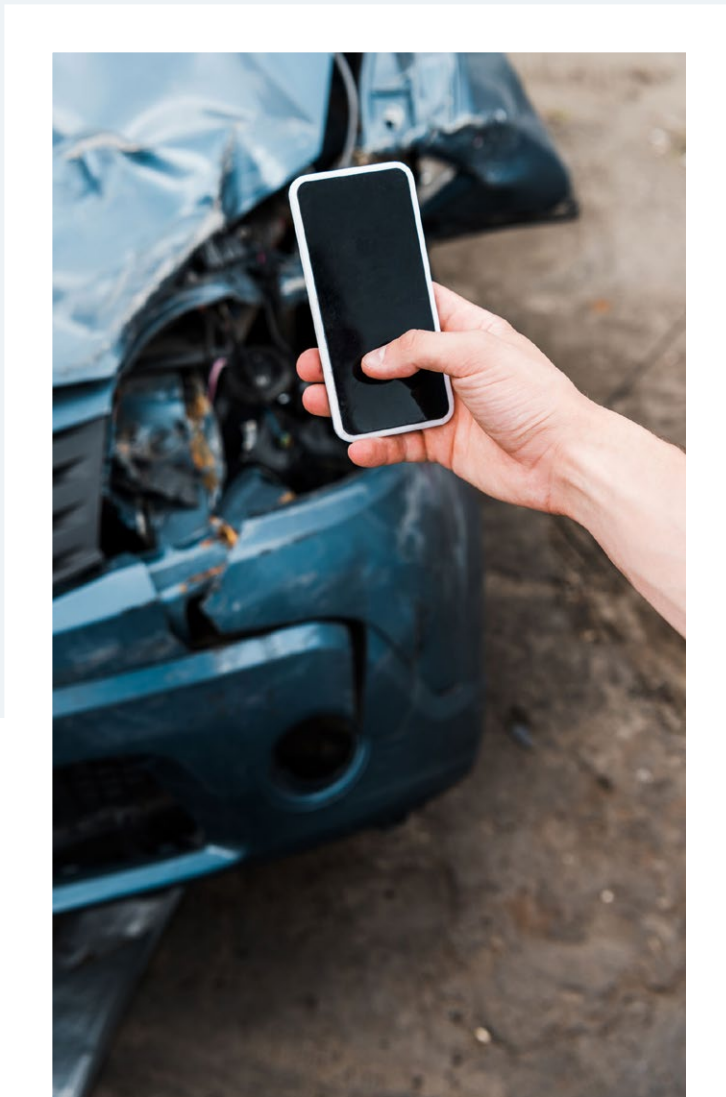
3 - Report Symptoms at the Scene to the Police Office and Fire Rescue Personnel. If there are symptoms felt at the scene, report these symptoms to the police officer and fire rescue personnel. Even if the symptoms feel minor at first, report the symptoms. Otherwise, there will be documentation in place as follows: “No reported injuries.”

4 - Take Photos. If you or another person is able to do so, get photographs of the damage to the vehicle that you were in, the other vehicle, road debris (if any), skid marks (if any), and photos of the roadway where the crash took place. If there are observable injuries in the form of lacerations or bruises, it is also helpful to have photos taken as well.

5 - Get a Copy of the Driver's Exchange. In most instances in which a police officer responds to the scene, there will be a Driver's Exchange form generated. This document will contain the name of the drivers, contact information, insurance information, and some other details of the crash. The police officer will typically provide each driver with a copy of the Driver's Exchange.

6 - Get Timely Medical Care. This can involve one or more medical providers including but limited to the following: fire rescue, emergency room, urgent care center, primary care physician, pain management doctor, chiropractor, physical medicine/sports injury doctor, and/or orthopedic doctor.

7 - Contact an Experienced Personal Injury Attorney. The tips contained in this article are not necessarily in order. In other words, a person can call an attorney right from the accident scene or soon thereafter. Certainly, the most important step to take is getting immediate and timely medical care. From there, the injury victim or his or her family can contact an automobile accident attorney.



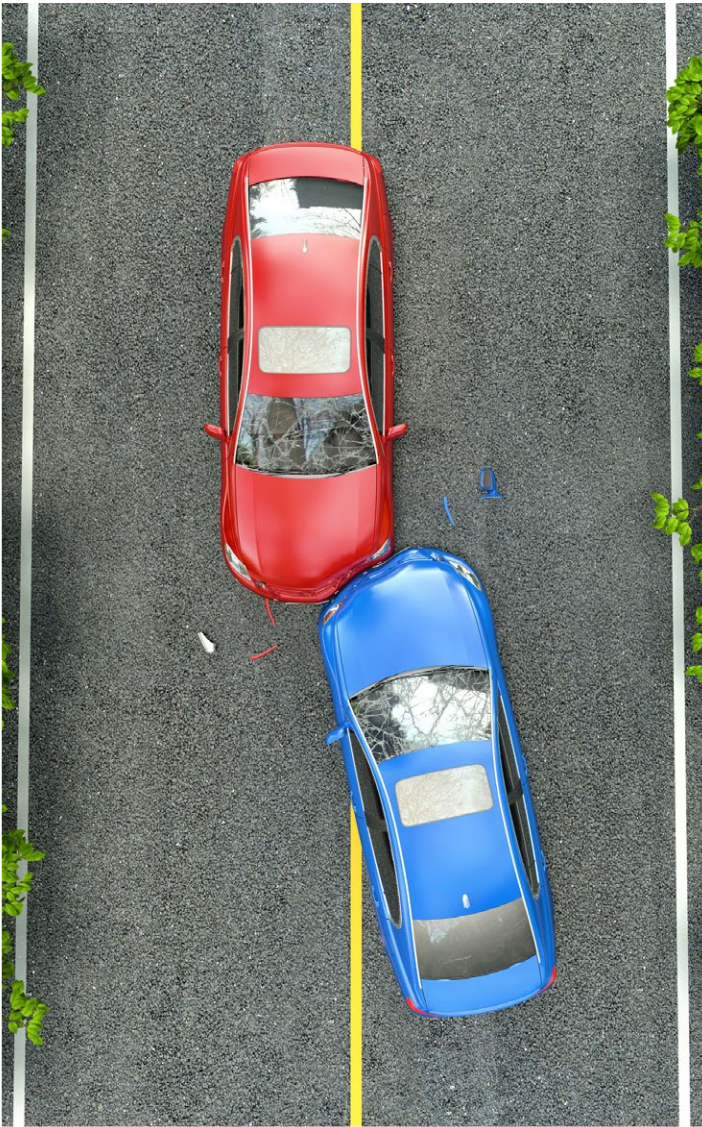
The above referenced 7 Tips to Follow Just After a Florida Automobile Accident do not necessarily establish a perfect case if each tip is followed. In addition, all 7 Tips do not need to be followed for a victim to be able to pursue a claim or case for the injuries/damages sustained as a result of a Florida car crash.

For instance, if the police are never called, a victim can still pursue a claim or case seeking out compensation for the injuries/damages caused by the negligence or fault of another driver. In other words, a police report is not mandatory or legally required to pursue a case or claim on behalf of a personal injury victim.

There are timing and notice requirements that apply to the pursuit of an injury claim or case in the State of Florida. However, the Florida laws and insurance requirements are not overly strict.

For instance, to qualify for medical benefits under the PIP (Personal Injury Protection) part of most Florida automobile insurance policies, the injury victim must obtain some form of medical treatment or evaluation within 14 days from the day of the crash. The treatment and evaluation can be obtained from any of the following providers: emergency room, urgent care center, medical doctor, primary care doctor, specialist, or chiropractor.

While there is a 14-day cushion of sorts to qualify for PIP benefits, the injury victim should seek out medical care as soon as possible rather than wait towards the end of this 14-day grace period to see a doctor.



Another timing issue or question that arises deals with the filing of a lawsuit. In the State of Florida, a lawsuit must be filed within 4 years from the date of the accident. This is called the Florida Statute of Limitations. A lawsuit is often filed when the attorney for the injury victim is unable to work out a reasonable settlement with the automobile insurance company for the at-fault driver and/or the automobile insurance company providing underinsured or uninsured motorist coverage.

In the State of Florida, a lawsuit to seek out or enforce benefits provided by an uninsured or underinsured motorist policy typically must be filed with 5 years from the date of the accident.

Keep in mind that the attorneys at **Wood, Atter & Wolf, P.A.** provide a **Free Consultation on personal injury matters.** The personal injury attorneys at Wood, Atter & Wolf, P.A. are available days, nights, and weekends to serve the needs of their clients and prospective clients. Get a Personal Injury Consultation today by contacting Wood, Atter & Wolf, P.A. The partners of Wood, Atter & Wolf, P.A. each have over 25 years of experience in handling personal injury cases.

Your consultation will be set up with a law partner of the firm – NOT a legal assistant, secretary, case manager, or call center attendant. At Wood, Atter & Wolf, P.A., we are On Your Side - At Your Side, with an experienced attorney ready to help and ready to fight to protect and enforce your legal rights in the aftermath of a Florida Automobile Accident.