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## **FIRST STEPS AFTER AN ACCIDENT:**

Being involved in an accident, whether it is in a car, while walking, or otherwise, is a scary and anxiety-filled time. Aside from your injuries, it's quite common to have your heart beating a mile a minute, to be shaking, sad, confused and disoriented. In the middle of all these crazy emotions, for your own protection, it is incredibly important to know what to do. What happens in those first few moments after your accident can lay the groundwork for everything that comes later in your personal injury claim.

Any successful personal injury claim has two integral parts to it. The first question you need to ask is whether the other person is responsible for what happened. This known as liability. If so, then you come to the second question: how extensive are your injuries? How much money you will ultimately get (or should get) is directly proportional to your damages. As with many things in life, it isn't necessarily what happened, but what you can prove happened. That's why knowing what to do immediately after your accident is of the utmost importance.

### **Steps to Take after a Car Accident:**

- Put on your emergency flashers (hazards) so that other will go around you;
- Check to see if anyone in your car is injured, and if so, call for medical help;
- Exit your vehicle if it's safe and you're physically able to do so;
- Check to see if anyone in the other vehicle is injured, and if so, call for medical help;
- Call 911 and report the accident;
- If possible and safe, try not to move your car. It is much easier for the police to figure out what happened if the cars are still in their original locations after the accident;
- If anyone was around and witnessed the accident, take down their name and phone number;
- After the police come, make sure you get a copy of the Short Form Police Report;
- Take pictures of your car, the other car and the surrounding areas!!! Most cell phones have cameras on them. If you do not have a cell phone or camera on you, ask if anyone else around does.
- Call Skolnick Injury Law; and
- Call your insurance company to report the accident, even if you are not at fault. Most insurance companies state in their policies that you must call them immediately afterwards.

### **Steps to Take after a Slip and Fall/ Trip and Fall Accident Inside an Establishment:**

- Don't move. Ask someone near you to find a manager;
- Fill out an Accident Report and demand a copy of it;
- Take pictures of the area you fell, the substance/object which made you fall and any bruises, cuts, etc.
- If anyone was around and witnessed the accident, take down their name and phone number; and
- Call Skolnick Injury Law.

Attention to detail matters! TAKE PICTURES, PICTURES AND MORE PICTURES!