

## When an accident happens...

*No one expects or wants to be in an accident, but accidents can happen to anyone. When an accident happens, the initial steps you take are crucial. The following suggestions are some of the things you can do to protect your legal interest.*

### **BE CALM**

Stay calm and alert. Accidents are unexpected and can generate powerful emotions. Remaining calm and clear-headed will allow you to more objectively take positive actions. Try to be polite and cordial. Do not become hostile to the others who may be involved.

### **CALL 911 FOR THE POLICE & MEDICAL CARE**

Always call the police or other responsible authorities when involved in an accident. Always request medical assistance for those injured. Always report your injuries no matter how slight. Injuries frequently become worse. Seek prompt medical attention.

### **DO NOT DISCUSS THE ACCIDENT**

Do not take blame for the accident. Exchange information required by law but do not make any other statements. Cooperate with the authorities but do not make any damaging comments. Anything you say can be used against you. Remember that you have a right to talk with a lawyer before making any statements.

### **PRESERVE THE SCENE**

The scene of an accident is the place or location where the injury occurred. It includes the actual physical location plus any physical evidence, items, articles, items, machinery, products, vehicles, and anything tangible that caused, contributed to, or help to identify the cause and results of an accident. It is extremely important to call the police or other authorities that are responsible to investigate the accident or resulting injuries. You must try to preserve information that provides an accurate basis for determining the cause of an accident and the resulting injuries. Take complete photographs and videos of the scene, including the resulting injuries. Immediately call Larry King or other qualified personal injury attorney.

### **GATHER AND RECORD INFORMATION**

Get the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all witnesses. Many witnesses of accidents leave without giving any information. Do not rely on the investigating officials to obtain this information. Immediately take photographs or a video of all factors pertaining to the accident. Keep notes of all important facts.

### **PRESERVE ALL EVIDENCE**

Evidence includes all tangible and intangible items or information pertaining to the accident. It includes, for example, statements, cars, machines, items, clothing, photographs, videos, scene photographs, medical records, bills, and so forth. Keep all evidence in a secure location. Do not destroy or discard anything. Know where all relevant physical items are located. Do not give authority to anyone to remove, obtain, possess, or destroy anything.

### **INJURIES AND DAMAGES**

You may be entitled to compensation for your injuries. Awarding monetary damages is the law's method of putting the wrongfully injured party, as closely as possible, into a position equal to that position before he or she was injured. You may have the right to recover money for damages such as pain and suffering, temporary and permanent disability, reasonable expenses for medical and hospital care, future expenses for medical care or rehabilitation, loss of income, and damages to property. Be sure to document all your injuries.

### **YOUR INSURANCE**

You must promptly report the accident to your company. Failure to do so could result in a loss of coverage. It is prudent to talk to your attorney first. Remember their interest may not be the same as yours. When an accident happens, they are a business, and you are an expense.

### **ANY OTHER INSURANCE COMPANY**

The biggest mistake people make is talking to the other insurance company. Trained adjustors or attorneys always represent insurance companies. Remember your interest is not their interest. You are their expense. They want to get out of a claim as quickly and as cheaply as possible, no matter what the consequences are to you. Protect yourself. Do not give them a statement, particularly a recorded statement. Do not sign anything for them. You are not required to talk to the other insurance company. Call your attorney first.

### **CALL LARRY KING**

#### **FOR A FREE CONSULTATION**

Our firm handles all types of accidents. For the individual attention you deserve and a full explanation of your rights, call Larry King. The firm will handle every aspect of your case in a thorough and professional manner. Combining years of knowledge and experience with the latest in technology, the firm takes special pride in aggressively representing injured persons. Call for a free consultation.