

What to do if you're in an accident



What are the most common types of accidents?

In Pennsylvania, over 128,000 car crashes were reported in 2017—and those were just the ones pulled from police reports. There are lots more that are just reported to insurance companies. Medical malpractice is another big one. One 2016 Johns Hopkins study suggests that medical errors are actually the third leading cause of death in the U.S. Slips and falls and work-related injuries are also up there as the most common ways accidents occur.

Do you find that people are reluctant to take action after an accident?

It depends on the person and the accident. People are generally most litigious when it comes to auto accidents. It's a different

story, however, for slips and falls. A lot of times, people are embarrassed and don't want to say anything. They'll say they're ok, then realize later on that they're not ok.

How do you report an accident?

If you slipped and fell at a property and you have that address, try and get in touch with the property owner and let them know. If it was a business, notify them whenever they're open that you had this incident and are now having trouble recovering. If more than a week has passed, you probably want to call a lawyer first and make sure the spin can get put the right way in your favor.

What else can I do after experiencing an accident?

Start taking notes immediately after getting

hurt. What people fail to realize is that notes can save them. I tell all my clients to keep a journal because the ones who do generally see a much better outcome. They've been keeping track of how they feel and when they feel that way, and that's going to help build their credibility. Insurance companies are always looking at the credibility factor. If you can't recall exactly when you were suffering and how it affected your life, your claim is going to be taken less seriously.

What legal action can you take?

You always have an option to call an attorney, especially if you're up against a property owner or large business you can't get in touch with. You may be able to recover damages related to negligence,

bodily injury, pain and suffering, lost wages, and other economic losses you've incurred because of the accident. It's really important to call a lawyer so they can tell you what those options are and get everything taken care of right away.

Is there anything I shouldn't do after an accident?

Don't tell people you're sorry—and don't tell people you're not hurt if you don't know. It's easy to ride on your adrenaline, but that's going to run out eventually. Speaking less is more in these situations. The last thing you want is to go rogue by reaching out to the other party without an attorney. This is a real risk because in this technological age, everything's being recorded.



On that note, don't post about your accident on social media because you can't change the narrative later. You'd be amazed at the narrative a defense attorney can spin off your profile and what you claim to be doing after the accident, so be very cautious with social media because it's ruining claims for younger generations.

Need help navigating the aftermath of an accident?

Reach out to Wiggins Law at 267-225-0770 / www.WigginsWins.com

ASK JAMIE:

Most accident victims have one thing in common—they were caught off guard by what happened. While none of us can predict what the future holds, preparing for how to handle an accident is something your future self will thank you for. Metro spent time with Jamie T. Wiggins, Esq. of Wiggins Law to talk about what to do if you're in an accident.