

THIS DOCUMENT, WHICH IS BASED ON GEORGIA LAW, IS INTENDED TO INFORM NOT

TO ADVISE. NO ONE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO APPLY OR INTERPRET ANY LAW

WITHOUT THE AID OF A LAWYER WHO KNOWS CRIMINAL LAW AND COURT RULES,

BECAUSE THE FACTS OF EACH INDIVIDUAL CASE ARE DIFFERENT AND MAY CHANGE

THE APPLICATION OF THE LAW.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN AUTO ACCIDENT

1. STOP!

No matter how minor an accident may be, the failure to stop can result in serious criminal consequences. If possible, stop your vehicle at the point nearest the accident scene without obstructing traffic more than necessary.

2. RENDER AID.

If anyone is injured:

1. Render first aid to the extent that you are qualified;
2. Stop bleeding;
3. Call a doctor or ambulance or both;
4. Do not move an injured person in any way that could possible add

to him or her injury unless there is immediate danger from explosion, fire, or traffic.

3. PROTECT THE SCENE AND THOSE INVOLVED FROM FURTHER DAMAGE OR INJURY

If the accident has obstructed the roadway take the measure to adequately warn approaching drivers. If the highway is obstructed at night, illuminate the accident scene if possible. Do not forget to use the warning flashers that are standard equipment on most vehicles.

4. CALL A POLICE OFFICER

State and local police officers are trained accident investigators. Their expertise may be invaluable in establishing the reason the accident occurred.

5. GATHER INFORMATION AND WRITE IT DOWN.

Don't trust your memory. Use the form in this booklet. Don't guess be specific.

1. Measure skid marks.
2. Step off distances.
3. Obtain names and addresses of witnesses.

Participants in automobile accidents are required by law to exhibit their driver's license to each other and provide the registration numbers of all vehicles involved in the accident, insurance carriers of every person providing information, insurance policy numbers, and the name and address of local agent of the insurance carrier. Record that information on this form so that it will be readily available if you are involved in an accident.

Vehicle Registration
Number _____

Insurance Carrier _____

Policy Number

Name and address of
agent: _____

6. BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY.

Even if you feel you might be at fault make no admissions as you may later learn that the other driver was equally at fault or more so.

Statements made during the emotion and excitement of an accident may be misconstrued, or later misquoted by others. Discuss the accident only with the investigating officer, your attorney, and your insurance company.

7. SEE YOUR DOCTOR

Serious injuries do not always result in immediate pain or bloodshed. If there is the slightest chance you may be injured, consult a doctor or hospital.

8. INFORM YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY IMMEDIATELY

Your insurance company employs trained investigators who will attempt to develop all evidence for your defense. Failure to promptly notify your insurer may void your policy and leave you without insurance coverage for damages resulting from the accident.

9. CONSULT YOUR LAWYER PROMPTLY.

If you anticipate filing a civil claim for damage or face trial on a traffic violation charge, the sooner your lawyer is brought into the matter, the better he or she can advise you and protect your rights. Your lawyer can obtain statements from the witnesses while their

memories are fresh, and do many other things to assure that the true facts are preserved. Get your lawyer's advise before giving any interviews or statements except to representatives of your insurance carrier.

10. REPORT THE ACCIDENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

A report must be filed with the Department of Public Safety soon after the accident unless the accident was investigated by a police officer and a police report filed by the officer. Accident report forms may be obtained from your local police or sheriff's department.