



5 STEPS

TO TAKE

**AFTER AN AUTO ACCIDENT
TO AVOID COSTLY MISSTEPS**

CHECKLIST





Report the Accident/Call 911 or the Police



After an accident, it is normal to be a little confused and shaken up about what to do next. Who do you call first?

Depending on the situation the most likely first step is to call 911 to report it. Especially if there are obviously injured parties involved.

The most important thing after an accident is to be sure you are out of the way of any further harm from approaching vehicles or debris from the accident. If you are still on the road and your car is still operable, pull off to the side of the road and be sure you are safe to exit the vehicle prior to exiting.

If you are injured to the point of needing an ambulance your statement will obviously be taken at a later time. If there are no obvious or serious injuries to anyone involved then calling the police would be next step but if the impact of the accident was enough to cause damage, be sure to get checked out by a trained medical professional at the scene and report any pain or discomfort.

If you have no immediate injuries it is best to say nothing. Sometimes injuries can take time to manifest and you don't want to speak too soon about your well being until you have had a day or two for the adrenaline and shock to wear off.



Get Checked By a Qualified Healthcare Provider:



Your health is your most valuable asset. Without it you can't provide for your family and you can't enjoy life to the fullest. Getting healthy should be your #1 priority.

Getting proper treatment after an accident can be one of the most important things you ever do for your well being. Injuries left untreated can manifest into major pain and problems down the road.

In the state of Ohio you have the right to file a claim against a driver who caused the accident. If injuries are involved, in order to support your claim, your injuries will need to be properly diagnosed and documented with a healthcare professional such as **First Choice Chiropractic**. This will be used as evidence in your claim to show proof of injuries and treatments.



Follow The Doctor's Orders:

Always follow your treatment recommendations.

Do it for your health. But also realize this is evidence and will be looked at by the other the insurance company when investigating your claim for validity and damages.



Talk to an Attorney:



Make sure you consult with an attorney. Medical treatment can be costly, and unless you sue the at fault parties, you will likely be left paying the tab. You need someone in your corner who knows the games that insurance companies like to play and will fight for the compensation you deserve. It's also important to choose your own health care provider BEFORE choosing an attorney.

Use Caution:

Always limit who you talk to about your accident excluding the police, health care providers and your attorney. In the hours and days after a car crash, you might be contacted by the other driver's insurance company. Use caution when making any statements. You might not be ready to talk; maybe the accident was traumatic. Maybe you are still in pain.

Decline to speak with them until you have a clear frame of mind and have consulted with an attorney. When you are injured and on medication, this is extra important. Let them know up front that you are on pain medication and cannot talk to them at that time.





If you were in a recent accident **give us a call today** so we can get you scheduled for an exam.

Dr. James Fonner DC
First Choice Chiropractic

(614) 362-7777

Injury Hotline



Disclaimer: We are not attorneys and we are not giving legal advice. This is a consumer guide to avoid common confusion and pitfalls that happen after an auto accident.