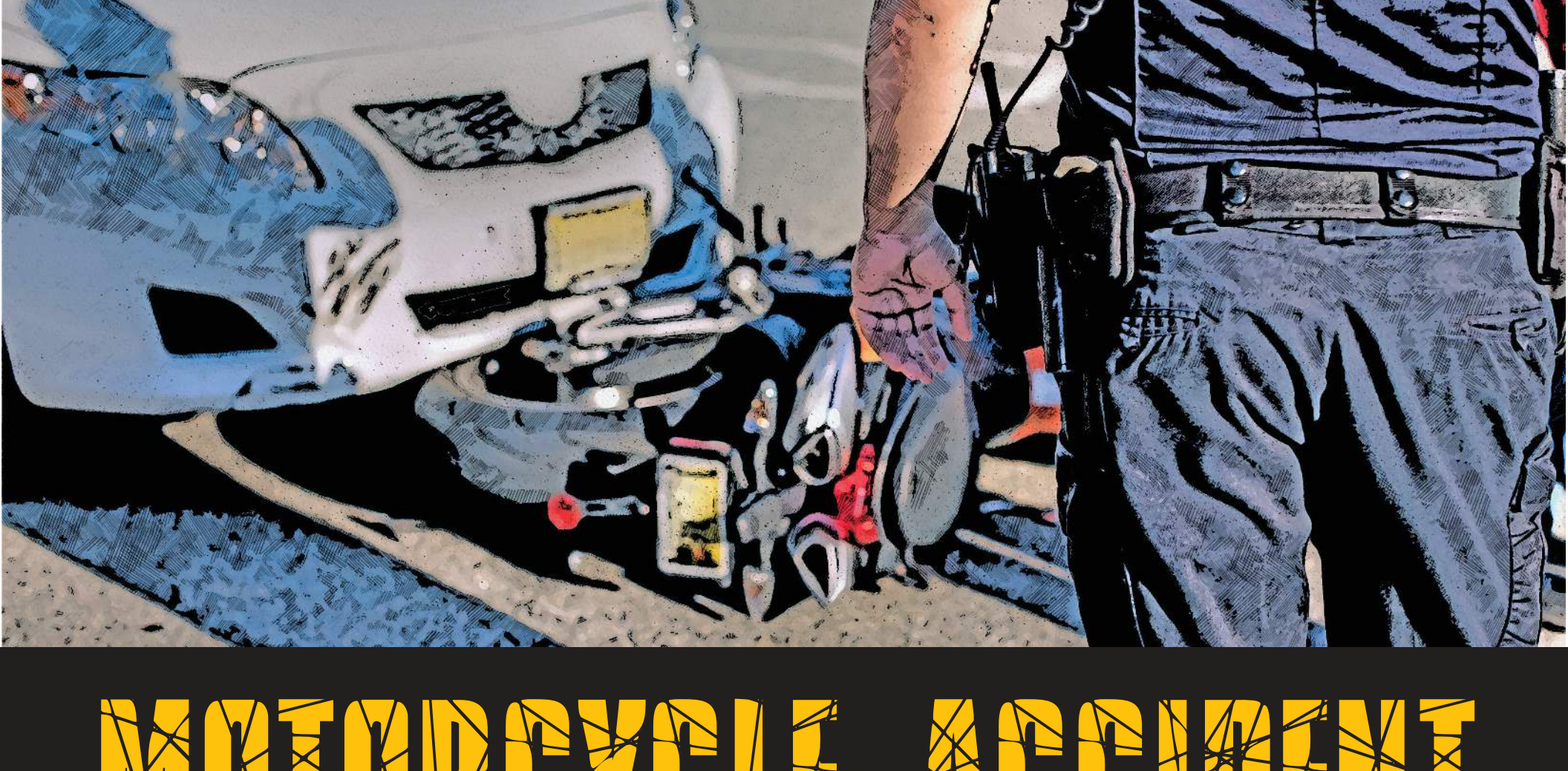


What To Do After A



MOTORCYCLE ACCIDENT

No one wants to be in a motorcycle accident; but if you are, we've got you covered with the tips below to help you be prepared.



GET SAFE

If you are able, make sure you and others are out of harm's way. Concern yourself primarily with oncoming traffic and then the vehicles involved in the incident.

! If you smell gasoline, move as far away from the source of it as possible.



GET HELP

Call 911 even if you don't feel injured. Many injuries may take hours, days or even weeks to show symptoms. Do not remove your helmet or protective gear before emergency personnel arrive as you may exacerbate injuries to your neck and spine.

Police will secure the scene, instruct other drivers and witnesses to stay put, direct traffic if necessary, photograph and document the accident site, interview the drivers and witnesses and put that information into a police report. Police officers can also determine if another driver was under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

! You can request a copy of the police report from the DMV, which may be instrumental in any insurance claim you make.



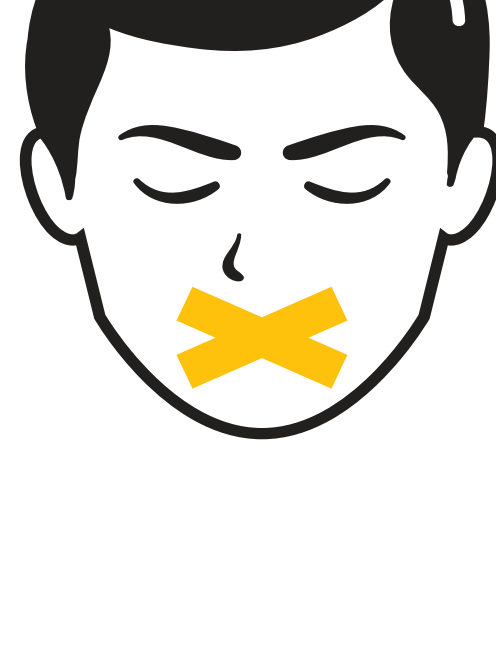
DON'T MOVE THE VEHICLES

Unless there is an imminent risk to others or yourself, leave your motorcycle where it is. When police officers photograph the scene, they will take careful note of the position of each vehicle involved in the crash, which will be evidence that may prove who was at fault.



NEVER LEAVE THE SCENE

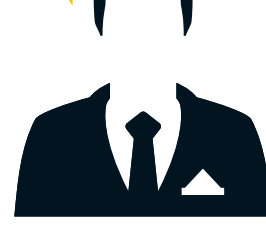
Leaving the scene of an accident before given permission by the police can, at the very least, cause your driver's license to be suspended or revoked. If there has been any injury or property damage, leaving the scene of an accident is a felony in all fifty states.



DON'T ADMIT FAULT

However natural it may seem, do not apologize or admit fault for the accident, either to another driver or to the police. You may be convinced that the accident was your fault, but experience has shown that after all the facts are evaluated, the other driver or other factors may have caused the crash.

! Any admission of fault will be used against you later in an attempt to deny you compensation.



GATHER EVIDENCE

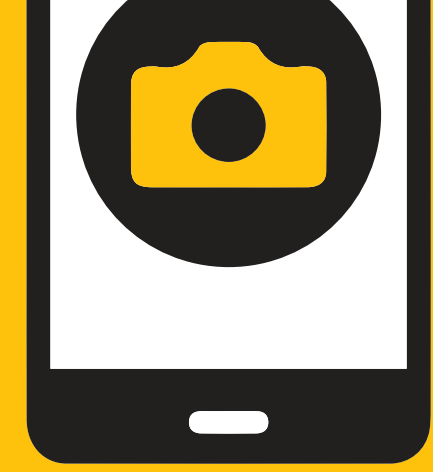
The most important information to collect is other driver(s) and others:



- ✓ Driver's name, address, phone number
- ✓ Insurance information (company name and policy number)
- ✓ Driver's license number, address and phone number
- ✓ Witness' name, address, phone number
- ✓ Police officer's name and badge number

Take Photos Of:

- All vehicles involved in the crash
- License plates
- Your motorcycle
- Any skid marks or road debris
- Road conditions, such as wet roads or uneven pavement
- Any hazards that may have led to the accident
- The closest mile marker and/or intersection
- Speed limit signs
- Any visible injuries



CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE CARRIER



Contact either your insurance agent or company promptly even if you don't plan on making an insurance claim. If you fail to notify them of the accident, they may later deny any claim you try to make through them, or they may cancel or refuse to renew your policy.

Tell the truth and give them the facts but don't admit fault for the accident and don't elaborate beyond the basic information. Experienced insurance adjusters are trained to use tactics in their interviews to find ways to get you to admit fault in order to minimize your compensation.

! Injured? It is best to consult an attorney with experience in motorcycle accidents because they are familiar with insurance company methods and can handle all communications with the insurance companies.



KEEP BILLS & RECEIPTS



Safely store all bills and receipts not just for medical services and prescriptions, but for any other services you need after the accident, such as lawn maintenance, household cleaning or childcare. Keep any bills or receipts for medical equipment as well as any alterations to your home to make it more accessible after the accident. Also, keeping a copy of your previous paystubs will help prove your income prior to the accident.

! These documents will be very important if you do choose to go forward with an insurance claim.



STAY OFF SOCIAL MEDIA



Do not share any details of your accident or recovery on social media. Insurance adjusters will most certainly be reading your social media posts in an attempt to find discrepancies in your story, to prove that you were not injured as seriously as you claim, or that you're recovering faster than your injuries would suggest. All of this is an attempt to limit what they pay out on your claim.

DON'T ACCEPT AN EARLY SETTLEMENT



After an accident, insurance companies know the strain you're under and will often offer you a lowball dollar amount as an immediate settlement. If you take this settlement, the moment you cash their check you will be unable to make any future claim for compensation for your injuries, even though your injuries may take longer than expected to heal or never heal completely.

! Speak to an experienced attorney first who can advise you whether the amount is appropriate based on your injuries and the circumstances.



GET A FREE CONSULTATION

At Harding Mazzotti, LLP, we've been successfully representing motorcycle accident victims for over 25 years. Our experienced team of legal professionals will fight hard to make sure you receive the compensation you're entitled to after your accident. If you or a loved one has been injured in a motorcycle accident, call us today for a free, no obligation evaluation of your case today.

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