

What to Do After a Car Accident in Hillsborough County, FL: A Step-by-Step Checklist

1. Stay Calm and Ensure Safety

- Stay calm and check yourself and passengers for injuries.
 - If the accident is minor, Florida law allows you to move vehicles to a safe location, such as the shoulder of the road.
 - Turn on hazard lights and use warning devices like flares if available.
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2. Call 911

- Florida law requires reporting accidents involving injuries, fatalities, or significant property damage to law enforcement.
 - Even for minor accidents, it's a good idea to file a police report for documentation.
 - Inform the dispatcher of your location, injuries, and any potential hazards.
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3. Contact Us

- At **Car Accident Consultants**, we specialize in helping accident victims in Hillsborough County and throughout Florida.
 - Whether you're dealing with injuries, property damage, or insurance claims, our experienced team can guide you.
 - **Call us immediately at (813) 465-9366 or fill out our online form** for a free consultation and legal advice.
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4. Document the Accident Scene

- Take photos of:
 - All vehicle damage.
 - License plates.
 - The scene, including skid marks, traffic signals, or weather conditions.

- Any visible injuries to yourself or others.
 - Write down what you remember about the accident while it's fresh in your mind.
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5. Exchange Information

- Gather the following from other drivers:
 - Name, phone number, and address.
 - Driver's license number.
 - Insurance company and policy number.
 - Vehicle make, model, and license plate number.
 - Avoid discussing fault or apologizing, as this may be used against you later.
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6. Look for Witnesses

- Ask for names and contact information of any witnesses.
 - If they're willing, record their statement about what they saw.
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7. Notify Your Insurance Company

- Florida is a "no-fault" state, so your Personal Injury Protection (PIP) insurance will cover your initial medical expenses regardless of fault.
 - Report the accident promptly and provide all documentation (police report, photos, witness information).
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8. Seek Medical Attention

- Florida law requires you to seek medical care within **14 days** of the accident to be eligible for PIP benefits.
 - Even if you feel fine, some injuries, like whiplash or internal trauma, may not show symptoms right away.
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9. Protect Your Legal Rights

- Avoid making recorded statements to other insurance companies without legal advice.
 - Do not sign anything from the other party's insurer without consulting an attorney.
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10. Follow Up on Repairs and Recovery

- Work with your insurance company or a trusted body shop to repair your vehicle.
 - Keep all records, including repair bills, medical expenses, and time missed from work.
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Pro Tip: Download and print this checklist to keep in your vehicle for quick reference in case of an accident.