

What To Do After An Accident

The immediate aftermath of an accident can be critical in terms of the outcome of any claim for personal injury, so it is vitally important to ensure that you do not jeopardise your position unwittingly. This guide sets out what you should do after an accident, whether it is a car accident, slip or fall, or an accident at work.

Do Not Discuss Fault

Although you may be in shock, it is very important to stay calm – which may seem difficult if you know that what happened to you wasn't your fault. No matter what type of accident you have had it is important not to discuss how it happened or who was to blame. It may be tempting to apologise even though it was not your fault, but this type of admission may affect your claim later on. It is also important not to make accusations.

Who is at fault may be entirely clear to you but there could be many months of legal wrangling over the facts in the months to come. Because of this, gather as much evidence as possible to support your case. If your mobile phone has a camera on it, take photographs of the scene. If it is not possible to do so at the time, go back afterwards and take pictures then. If anyone else saw the accident, obtain their names and addresses so that they can be witnesses if necessary. Is the area covered by CCTV? If so, can you obtain a copy of the footage as evidence?

Seek Medical Attention

You may not feel the extent of your injuries for some hours or even days after your accident. As a result you should keep a record of the pain that you suffer, and seek medical attention as soon as practicable. Report all your symptoms, no matter how minor they may seem, including headaches, dizziness, forgetfulness and confusion. While you are suffering these symptoms, you may not consider them to be important, but it is often surprising after you have recovered to recall how out of sorts you felt at the time.

After an accident, an insurance company, third party solicitors or another organisation are likely to take control of a case. There will be a number of parties working together to establish blame and reach a settlement if necessary. It is vitally important that you obtain independent legal advice before you sign anything from an insurance company or other party. To do otherwise may jeopardize your ability to make a claim for compensation, or to be paid anything more than a notional amount.

To get expert independent advice from lawyers who fight hard to get you the full compensation you deserve, call us today.

*For more information contact PCB Solicitors on 01743 248148
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