



## Guide to Automobile Accidents in North Carolina

Car accidents occur every day. While the majority of car accidents in North Carolina do not result in serious, long lasting injuries, a single collision has the power to change your life. If you have been involved in an automobile accident you may be concerned about medical bills, future injuries, damaged property and lost wages. At DeMent Askew & Johnson, we have a reputation for getting our clients the compensation they deserve, however it is critical that you know what you should do if you find yourself in an automobile accident.

### Tips for What You Should Do After an Automobile Accident in NC

If you are involved in an accident would you know what to do? DeMent Askew & Johnson have some tips for handling a car accident in North Carolina to protect your immediate interests. Following these do's and don'ts can make it possible for you to get the compensation you deserve; however, you should only use this advice when you can safely do so. If injuries prevent you from taking the recommended steps, always attend to your health and the well-being of others first.



1. Remain at the scene of the accident. Failure to do so can result in serious criminal charges. See our website article "How A Personal Injury Claim Can Turn into Criminal Charges."
2. Check yourself and others involved for injuries including pedestrians and provide help to the best of your ability.
3. Call 911 for emergency medical help.
4. Call the police and make an accident report regardless of how minor the accident is.
5. Take pictures of the scene of the accident, if possible, if not, draw a rough sketch of the accident and write down details of the accident.
6. Exchange information, such as names, contact numbers, email addresses, mailing addresses, and insurance information with other drivers and witnesses.
7. Call your insurance company to provide them with information and ask about time limits for filing a claim and what the process is.
8. Get a copy of the police report and keep all pertinent documents.
9. Follow through with all recommended medical treatments.
10. Call an experienced automobile accident lawyer in NC.



## Mistakes that can Jeopardize Your Case for Injury Compensation from an Automobile Accident

If you have been involved in a car accident you know that adrenalin levels can be high and disorienting. However, understanding what to do and what not to do after an accident can go a long way to ensuring that you do not jeopardize your compensation claim.

A single statement, action, or inaction can weaken a compensation claim. Every case is unique and without advice from an automobile accident attorney in NC, you may say or do something that keeps you from collecting the damages you deserve. Damages that can include payment of your medical expenses, future medical expenses, lost wages, pain and suffering and punitive damages. The most common mistakes to avoid after an automobile accident include the following:

1. Try to avoid detailed conversations with any of the other drivers involved. Avoid telling others involved that you are ok, when you think there is a chance you may be injured.
2. If possible, and if it is safe, stay seated in your car until first responders arrive.
3. Do not admit guilt or express remorse to anyone.
4. Do not give the other driver's insurance company more information than the law requires. You must give your name, address, and phone number.
5. Do not delay medical treatment, if you are hurt, seek medical attention right away and follow the treatment plan including not returning to work before you are released to do so by your treating physician.

6. Do not sign anything from the other driver's insurance company without having an attorney review it on your behalf.
7. Do not put off speaking with an attorney about your case.
8. Avoid downplaying the possible nature of your injuries. The adrenaline of being in an accident can sometimes mask your pain and injuries. Also, we are all busy and have things to do other than spending hours at a hospital, so your initial reaction may be to think that you are ok and that you don't need medical attention. Place your own health and well-being as your number one priority. If you believe you may have been injured in any way, or you are feeling pain you did not have before the accident, ask for medical attention at the scene.

You may have a personal injury case and be entitled to compensation in North Carolina if your car accident attorney in North Carolina can prove there was a legal duty to use care; another driver violated that duty, and the violation directly caused the accident and your injury.

At DeMent Askew and Johnson, we understand your injuries may prevent you from traveling to us, therefore we extend all possible courtesy in handling your case. We will gladly visit you at your home, in the hospital or speak with you by phone or video conference for a free consultation to determine the strength of your personal injury case and discuss what compensation you are entitled to. Our firm does not receive payment

for legal fees if we do not get you monetary damages.

Contact Jim Johnson to arrange a free telephone consultation with one of our experienced personal injury attorneys. We have the knowledge and resources to investigate complex accident cases, offer honest advice, negotiate aggressively with insurance companies, and seek to get every client fair compensation. Call us today for a free consultation at 919-833-5555.

