

## CRITICAL INFO TO GATHER AFTER AN ACCIDENT

### Get Info from the Other Driver(s)

The kinds of information that should be documented include the following:

- The name(s) of the other driver(s) involved in the accident;
- Driver's license number(s);
- The vehicle identification number(s) (VIN) of the other vehicle(s) involved;
- The address(es) and contact number(s) of the other driver(s);
- Insurance company and policy information.



### Secure Contact Info from Witnesses

It is also important for accident victims to obtain contact information from anyone who may have witnessed the accident occur. In many cases, drivers can have significantly differing accounts of how an accident happened and eyewitness testimony can often help resolve these kinds of disputes. In addition to talking to people who may have witnessed the accident, victims should also look around and see whether any businesses or homes in the area have surveillance cameras that may have captured the accident taking place.



### Take Photographic Evidence

Relevant photographs may include the following:

- Your vehicle;
- The other driver's vehicle;
- Your visible injuries;
- Damage to guardrails or other objects;
- Any roadway hazards you believe may have caused or contributed to your accident;
- Tire marks; and
- The general layout of the roadway where your accident occurred.



### Note any Relevant Surrounding Details

Examples of the kinds of things worth noting may include;

- The weather conditions at the time of the accident;
- Any observations regarding the other driver or drivers that may be relevant to their mental state at the time of the accident;
- Traffic conditions at the time of the accident;
- Whether there were any traffic signals in the area; and
- The road conditions at the scene.



### Obtain a Copy of the Police Report

After law enforcement arrive on the scene and interview those involved and those who witnessed the collision, they will enter information into an official police report. The report can not only provide important details but also may include a statement giving the officer's opinion on who was at fault in the accident. You should obtain the report and ensure it includes an accurate portrayal of what you said. If it does not, you can request to have the report amended.

