

Prestige Law Firm, P.C.

AFTER-ACCIDENT CHECKLIST

 **IF ANYONE IS HURT, CALL 911 FIRST.**

PAGE 1 : AT THE SCENE

● FIRST 5-10 MINUTES

- ☐ Stop your vehicle.
- ☐ Turn on your hazard lights.
- ☐ Take a breath. Check yourself and your passengers.
- ☐ Move out of traffic if you can do so safely.
- ☐ Call 911 if anyone is hurt or traffic is blocked.

● NEXT 30-60 MINUTES

- ☐ Stay at the scene.
- ☐ Keep conversations calm, brief, and factual.
- ☐ Check on other people if it is safe.
- ☐ Contact police or CHP when needed.

If anyone is injured or killed, report the collision to law enforcement within 24 hours.

- ☐ **Arrange a tow if your vehicle is unsafe to drive.**

Take medication, identification, electronics, and other important belongings with you.

DO NOT - AT THE SCENE

- Don't leave before exchanging the required information.
- Don't argue about who caused the crash.
- Don't say the crash was your fault before the facts are clear.
- Don't say you are fine before you know how you feel.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- ☐ Check that your photos are clear.
- ☐ Save the police or CHP report number.
- ☐ Save the tow company's name and destination.
- ☐ Do not drive a vehicle that feels unsafe.

Turn over → Fill in the details before people leave.

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PAGE 2 : INFORMATION TO COLLECT

OTHER DRIVER - VEHICLE 1

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Driver's license #: _____

Insurance company: _____

Policy #: _____

OTHER VEHICLE - VEHICLE 1

Make: _____ Model: _____

Color: _____ License plate: _____

Registered owner / address: _____

VIN, if visible: _____

SECOND DRIVER / VEHICLE

Full name: _____

Phone: _____

Driver's license #: _____

Insurance company: _____

Policy #: _____

Make / model: _____

License plate: _____

Registered owner / address: _____

WITNESSES

Witness 1 - Name: _____

Phone: _____

What they saw: _____

Witness 2 - Name: _____

Phone: _____

What they saw: _____

Witnesses can leave within minutes. Ask for contact details early.

POLICE / CHP AND TOW

Agency: _____

Officer / badge #: _____

Incident / report #: _____

How to get the report: _____

Tow company: _____

Tow phone: _____

Vehicle taken to: _____

PHOTO CHECKLIST

☐ Both vehicles - close views

☐ Both vehicles - wide views

☐ All license plates

☐ Vehicle positions

☐ Traffic signals and signs

☐ Lane markings

☐ Skid marks

☐ Roadway debris

☐ Visual obstructions

☐ Road and weather conditions

☐ Driver's license and insurance card, with permission

☐ Nearby buildings or vehicles with possible cameras

WHAT HAPPENED, IN YOUR WORDS?

Keep it factual. Where were you going? Which lane? What did you see? Write it today.

PAGE 3 : TONIGHT AND THE NEXT FEW DAYS

WATCH FOR THESE SYMPTOMS

- ☐ Neck or back pain
- ☐ Headache
- ☐ Dizziness
- ☐ Nausea
- ☐ Confusion
- ☐ Trouble sleeping or mood changes
- ☐ Light or noise sensitivity
- ☐ Numbness or tingling
- ☐ Weakness
- ☐ Chest or shoulder pain

If symptoms appear or worsen, get medical attention. Some injuries may not be obvious immediately.

KEEP EVERY ONE OF THESE

- ☐ Medical bills
- ☐ Prescription and medication receipts
- ☐ Ambulance charges
- ☐ Towing and storage bills
- ☐ Repair estimates
- ☐ Rental-car expenses
- ☐ Transportation costs for appointments
- ☐ Lost-pay records

TONIGHT

- ☐ Tell your insurance company about the collision.
- ☐ Check whether a DMV SR-1 report applies to you.

California requires an SR-1 within 10 days if anyone is injured or killed, or property damage exceeds \$1,000. It is separate from police, CHP, and insurance reports.
- ☐ Put every photo, note, and document in one folder.
- ☐ Write down what happened while you remember it.

WHEN TO CALL A LAWYER

CONSIDER GETTING LEGAL GUIDANCE IF:

- ☐ Your injuries are not improving.
- ☐ You need ongoing medical treatment.
- ☐ Someone disputes who caused the crash.
- ☐ The other driver is uninsured or underinsured.
- ☐ An adjuster requests a recorded statement or fast settlement.
- ☐ You feel out of your depth managing the claim.

7-DAY SYMPTOM AND COST LOG

Day	Pain 0-10	Symptoms	Appointments	Work Missed
1	----	-----	-----	-----
2	----	-----	-----	-----
3	----	-----	-----	-----
4	----	-----	-----	-----
5	----	-----	-----	-----
6	----	-----	-----	-----
7	----	-----	-----	-----

PRESTIGE LAW FIRM, P.C.

FREE CONSULTATION

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Prestige Law Firm, P.C. helps injured people across Los Angeles County and the Antelope Valley.



SCAN FOR THE
ONLINE VERSION

This checklist provides general information, not legal advice. Using it does not create an attorney-client relationship.