



WHAT
LAWYERS
DO

Insurance companies hire specially trained claims adjusters whose sole mission is to pay as little as possible for your claim. By hiring an attorney to represent you on a contingent fee basis, you will receive the specialized professional help you need to fairly resolve your claim.

As a victim of an accident without an attorney, you are at the mercy of the wrongdoer's insurance company. While there is no law that requires you to hire an attorney to handle your personal injury claim, the legal training and expertise that a qualified personal injury lawyer provides will greatly increase your ability to obtain a prompt and fair settlement.

DAVID J. BALINT, PLLC provides quality professional representation to help you obtain compensation for injuries to your person and property. Please call for a free consultation if you have been injured.

ACCIDENT REPORT

Keep this in
your glove box



Courtesy of

DAVID J. BALINT, PLLC

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SEATTLE, WA 98121-2567

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CELL (MESSAGE): 206-947-7988
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ACCIDENT DIAGRAM

Use the space below to draw the scene of the accident. Indicate roadways, driveways, road signs, vehicles, pedestrians, and direction of vehicles at time of the collision.



DAVID J. BALINT, PLLC



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Before an accident happens

1. Obtain adequate liability, personal injury protection (PIP), and underinsured motorist (UIM) coverage. Call us to discuss whether you have adequate coverage for you and your family.
2. Buy an inexpensive disposable camera and put it in your glove-box or trunk. That way if an accident happens you will be able to document accurately.
3. Take photographs of your car and put them in a safe place (not in your car). This will aid in accurately assessing property damage. Be sure to update the photos if you acquire any new dents or dings.
4. Keep this brochure and a pen in your car with your proof of insurance certificate and your vehicle registration.
5. Fill in the blanks below with important information:

Insurance Agent Name:

Insurance Agent Tel:

Policy No.

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WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

At the scene of the accident

If you are involved in an accident, always be sure to obtain the following information:

- Names and addresses of all others involved (including all witness):

- Driver's license numbers:

- License plate numbers:

- Name of other driver's insurance company:

- Make, model and year of vehicles involved:

- ALWAYS call the police if serious injuries or property damage exceeding \$300.00 are present. The police will assist in obtaining relevant information.

- NEVER move the vehicles unless it is a danger to leave them as they are.

- IMMEDIATELY obtain medical attention for the injured. (911)

- OBTAIN names, addresses and telephone numbers of all witnesses.

- PHOTOGRAPH the accident scene. Be sure to capture damages to all vehicles involved.

After an accident happens

1. You should FILE AN ACCIDENT REPORT with the Washington State Patrol within 24 hours of the accident. Forms are available at local police stations.
2. ALWAYS consult with a physician after you have been involved in an accident, and encourage your passengers to do the same. Symptoms of a serious injury may be masked.
3. NOTIFY YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY of the accident in order to preserve your right to later make claims for Personal Injury Protection coverage, or underinsured motorist coverage.
4. DO NOT DISCUSS the accident with anyone outside of your immediate family, your attorney or your doctor.
5. DO NOT SIGN ANY DOCUMENT without first consulting your attorney or doctor. In particular, do not sign any release without consulting an attorney no matter what verbal representation is made by an insurance adjustor. Once you sign a comprehensive release, you will not be able to obtain further financial recovery from the person at fault or their insurance company, no matter how badly you have been injured. Signing the release means you have settled your claim FOREVER.
6. KEEP A RECORD of all expenses, including mileage to and from your health care provider's office, and all time missed from work.
7. KEEP A DAILY DIARY OF CHANGES in your life as a result of your injuries. Be sure to include activities missed, pain and discomfort levels, work or family related problems, and lost opportunities.
8. PHOTOGRAPH your visible injuries, such as casts, stitches, bruising, and so on.

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