



AUTO ACCIDENT INJURY CARE

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Top 8 Costly Mistakes Made By Auto Accident Victims

MISTAKE # 1: Failure to mitigate your damages. What this means is that if you suffer an accident, you are not suppose to wait around and do nothing. If you suffer an accident and know you are injured or have reason to believe you are injured, go see a doctor right away. The reason is that insurance companies use computer software to evaluate claims and failure to act on your injury and take precautions to minimize your pain will reduce the value of the case according to the computer software.

MISTAKE # 2: Trusting the insurance adjuster. Many insurance adjusters mislead accident victims into believing they are going to help. Insurance adjusters have a job and that job is to fulfill their duties according the terms of on the insurance policy at absolute minimum cost. Insurance companies are in the business of making money. They are not charities, or good guys, or neighbors helping neighbors, they are concerned with one thing and one thing only -profits. If you suffered an injury call an attorney right away. Not every case merits representation, but speaking with an attorney is often the best thing you can do to help yourself.

MISTAKE # 3: Permitting an insurance adjuster to take your declaration and record it. If an insurance adjuster calls you and asks to take your declaration, it is for the purpose of denying your claim. It is not for the purpose of helping you. They are hoping you will make an error. Sometimes they will call you within hours after the accident, because in a soft tissue injury they know you will not be hurting for several hours.

MISTAKE # 4: Failure to act quickly for injury treatment. If you take too long to seek treatment from an accident injury specialist, and the case goes to trial, a jury may believe the injuries were caused by something else. Some accident victims often go to the emergency room afterwards. An ER doctor may not uncover soft tissue issues. Accident victims may not develop severe pain until 2-4 days after the accident. Seeking treatment from AAIC immediately will reduce pain from caused from soft tissue injuries.

MISTAKE # 5: Not following your doctor's instructions. Accident victims have an obligation to mitigate their injuries. If you disobey your doctor's instructions for getting better -- such as by stopping treatment without your doctor's approval -- this can lower the amount of compensation you receive, since it makes insurance



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companies and courts suspicious of the true nature of your injuries. Don't make the error many accident victims make of ignoring their doctor's instructions or missing doctor's appointments.

MISTAKE # 6: Keeping poor records of expenses and problems caused by the accident.

Accident victims are entitled to be compensated for many things, including medical expenses, lost wages, pain and suffering and changes to their lifestyle. Keeping good records of all accident-related expenses and physical and other problems caused by the accident will help make sure you get compensated for everything the law entitles you to receive.

MISTAKE # 7: Settling too fast, before all your injuries are known.

Many accident victims think they suffered only minor injuries and will accept a fast settlement just to end the matter. When they later discover their injuries are much worse than they first thought, they are prevented from getting more money from the insurance company. Always remember that many injuries take time to fully develop. Don't make the mistake of settling your claim before knowing the full extent of your injuries and financial losses. These are just some mistakes accident victims make that hurt their case. If you have questions about what to do after an accident, call us. Calling us as soon after an accident as possible can help you avoid these and other mistakes, and increase your chances of getting the best settlement.

MISTAKE # 8: Waiting too long to seek legal help.

The longer you wait to get legal help, the harder it can be to find evidence and witnesses, and the more likely something will happen that hurts your case, such as giving the wrong statement to an insurance adjuster. By waiting to get legal help, you also risk losing your claim because the deadline for making claims has expired. Don't make the mistake of waiting too long to call your lawyer. This can significantly lower your recovery.

