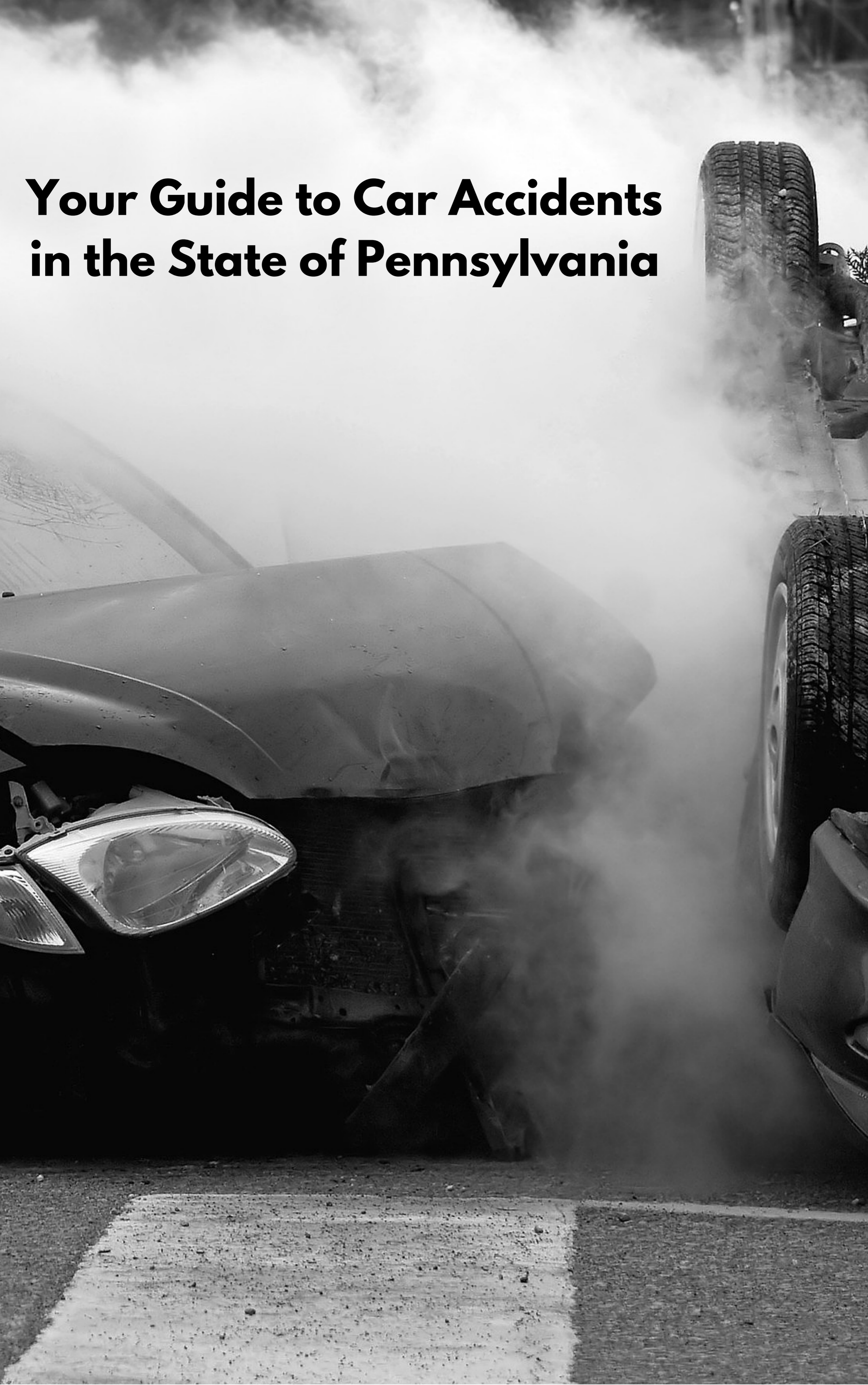


Your Guide to Car Accidents in the State of Pennsylvania



Your Guide to Car Accidents in the State of Pennsylvania

In 2014 alone, there were more than 121,000 reportable traffic crashes across the state of Pennsylvania. Those car accidents claimed the lives of nearly 1200 people and injured a further 79,758.



Your Guide to Car Accidents in the State of Pennsylvania

Across the state, 332 reportable traffic crashes occur on a daily basis. If you have recently been involved in a vehicle accident in Pennsylvania, you are certainly not alone, but knowing how to protect yourself and what to do next can be important for your future. Do not hesitate to reach out to a Philadelphia car accident attorney. This guide is to give you ample information about how to handle a car accident when it happens in Pennsylvania so that you can more clearly understand your rights as well as your responsibilities.



The Basics of Car Accidents

The primary focus of any car accident claim in the state of Pennsylvania has to do with fault. In our society, unfortunately the negligence and recklessness of drivers contributes to a large number of actions in both criminal and civil courts.



The Basics of Car Accidents

Although the automobile has been the primary form of personal transportation for decades now, the frequency of automobile accidents still presents grave concerns for injuries and deaths associated with recklessness and negligence behind the wheel. Personal injury law in Pennsylvania and in many other states allows you to file a claim for compensation in the event that another driver's recklessness or negligence has contributed to severe injuries for you.



How Injuries in a Car Accident Can Impact You for Many Years to Come

Some of the most common injuries associated with a vehicle accident include:

- Broken bones
- Fractures
- Scars
- Lacerations
- Burns
- Internal bleeding
- Head, neck and shoulder injuries



How Injuries in a Car Accident Can Impact You for Many Years to Come

All of these injuries can complicate your life in numerous different ways. For example, with a severe head injury or back problem you may be unable to return to the job you had prior to the car accident. You may also find it more difficult to get through a day of work, meaning that you have to give up your job.



How Injuries in a Car Accident Can Impact You for Many Years to Come

In light of the many different treatments associated with helping you heal, you may have costly medical bills even if you have health insurance. This is why personal injury law allows you to pursue a claim against another individual for compensation if your injuries are severe and are expected to impact your life in big ways.



How Do I Know How My Injuries Will Impact Me?

Your doctor can tell you more about how specific injuries will translate to changes in your life but many individuals are surprised to learn that what appears to be a minor injury can actually lead to consistent pain for the rest of their lifetime. For example, individuals who suffer a whiplash injury in the wake of a Pennsylvania car accident may still be feeling the repercussions of that injury many years down the road.



How Do I Know How My Injuries Will Impact Me?

One other thing to note with injuries in car accidents is that you may not always be able to diagnose or spot these injuries right away. In fact, it is extremely common to identify head, neck or shoulder injuries days or weeks after the accident has happened. This is why you need to empower yourself as a patient and report any changes to your medical provider as soon as possible after you notice the symptoms changing.



What Steps Should I Take Following a Car Accident in Pennsylvania?

There are several different steps you should always take after you have been injured in a car accident in Pennsylvania. This is regardless of the extent of damage and whether or not you believe that you have sustained injuries.

As is mentioned above, you may not realize the full extent of your injuries until sometime after, so it is important to follow these steps.



What Steps Should I Take Following a Car Accident in Pennsylvania?

Stop

You need to stop immediately after an accident happens in order to report the accident to the authorities and to speak with the other driver. This can be an emotionally charged situation but it is important that you do not leave the scene of the accident.

You could be charged, for example, with a hit and run crime even if you do not think you were the one who caused the accident. Stopping and sharing details with the other driver as well as reporting the incident to the police is the best way to protect your rights after an accident happens.



What Steps Should I Take Following a Car Accident in Pennsylvania?

Help Anyone Injured

If there are any vehicles in the roadway or any individuals who appear to be hurt, try to move them out of the way of oncoming traffic or at least alert oncoming traffic that there is an obstacle in the road. If someone is seriously injured, you should always call for medical assistance by dialing 911.

This may also trigger a police officer coming to the scene to take a police report. It is strongly recommended that you obtain a police report after a Pennsylvania car accident because this is the best way to document the details while they are still fresh in your mind.



What Steps Should I Take Following a Car Accident in Pennsylvania?

Speak to Any Witnesses

While you are waiting for a police officer to arrive, you may wish to obtain the contact information of any and all witnesses who might have seen some of the circumstances of the accident. It may also be beneficial to get statements from these individual witnesses about what they saw happen.



What Steps Should I Take Following a Car Accident in Pennsylvania?

Exchange Information

Although it can be difficult to talk to another party, particularly if he or she is upset about the accident, you need to exchange contact and insurance information immediately after the crash happens.

You do not need to discuss the details of the accident regarding fault and do not attempt to assume fault for the accident or apologize to the other driver in any way. You are not required to speak to the other driver outside of sharing your basic contact information and the conversations about fault should be left to your personal injury attorney down the road.



What Steps Should I Take Following a Car Accident in Pennsylvania?

Gather Evidence & Take Notes

It is strongly recommended that you put together an accident diagram and take pictures of all damage to your vehicle. Doing this while the information is still fresh and before anything is towed away can be beneficial. Imagine down the road if your vehicle is fixed very quickly, for example, and you do not have the details about the damage that happened.

The damage to your car can help to fill in details about how the accident occurred so get this information now. It is far better to have too much information than too little. Small details like skid marks or damage to other vehicles and items can help your personal injury attorney recreate the scene of the accident, if possible.



What Steps Should I Take Following a Car Accident in Pennsylvania?

When to Leave the Scene

Unless your injuries compel you to stay at the scene of the accident longer, you are free to leave the scene after you have spoken to the officer and filled out any accident information forms, if necessary. You may wish to notify your car insurance company at the scene of the accident that you wish to file a claim. It is recommended that you consult with your car insurance company sooner rather than later about these matters.



What Steps Should I Take Following a Car Accident in Pennsylvania?

Seek Medical Attention

Even if you are not sure that you have been seriously injured, it is strongly recommended that you seek medical attention for your injuries. This is so a doctor can evaluate you fully and conduct any tests, if necessary, to determine whether you have more severe problems than you expected.



Should I Talk to the Other Party About the Accident?

In the days and weeks after the accident happens, the other party or his or her insurance company may reach out to you to discuss the accident. It is strongly recommended that you have a Philadelphia personal injury attorney working for you so that you do not have to have these conversations. You should never accept a settlement amount in an accident like this without first speaking to your car accident attorney.



Should I Talk to the Other Party About the Accident?

With severe injuries, it can be challenging to calculate the amount of compensation that would be fair in order to help you pay for your injuries and move on with your life. An experienced car accident attorney in Philadelphia, however, can assist you with this process. You should never be bullied into accepting a settlement agreement and having an advocate on your side in the form of a lawyer can help to minimize the chances that this will happen.



Should I Talk to the Other Party About the Accident?

Do I Really Need to File a Personal Injury Claim?

If you have been injured because someone else was not paying attention or otherwise negligent, you may have grounds for a personal injury claim. The only way to protect yourself from the costly medical bills and the long-term impacts on your life is to speak with a Philadelphia accident attorney.

Given that you have a limited period of time in which you can file a claim, it's in your best interests to take action sooner rather than later.



Should I Accept a Settlement or Head to Trial?

Only you and your attorney can determine the circumstances where it makes more sense to accept a settlement than it does to go to trial. Many individuals and car insurance companies who realize that they may end up paying significantly more in court could recommend going through settlement negotiations.



Should I Accept a Settlement or Head to Trial?

If you do not wish to go through the potential delays and frustration of going through court, it would make sense to accept a settlement amount if it appears to be fair in line with your injuries. However, some cases cannot be resolved without going through litigation. The litigation process can be complicated and confusing without the help of a Philadelphia personal injury lawyer. Do not hesitate to reach out to an attorney's office to learn more about your rights.



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