

Accident Emergency Advice File



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The information in this kit is to advise you of the appropriate steps to be taken in the event of a motor collision or accident.

At the Scene

Stop

The Law requires that a driver of a vehicle which is involved in an accident resulting in damage to another vehicle, personal injury or death shall immediately stop his vehicle at the scene of the accident.

The Gardai

The Law requires that the driver of a vehicle involved in an accident resulting in either personal injury or death shall as soon as possible notify the accident to the Gardai. If there are no apparent personal injuries it is wise to contact the Gardai in order that they can investigate the accident. The official Garda report may assist you later if you are making a claim.

Do not be put off calling the Gardai by the driver of the other car if you want the Gardai to call to the scene of the accident. When the Gardai attend at the scene, give them your name, address and insurance particulars. Remember you do not have to make a statement and in fact you should not make a statement without consulting a Solicitor first.

Health

Health is always Number 1. If you are not injured yourself then check if there are injured persons. If you are injured yourself then delegate this task to somebody else who is not injured. If someone is seriously injured then try and get a Doctor or call an ambulance whichever is quicker. Do not hesitate to call to a nearby house. You will always find people willing to help regardless of the time of the day or night. If someone is injured do not move the person unless you know exactly what you are doing. If you do know what you are doing then your help could result in further injury to the victim,

The cars

Leave the cars exactly where they finished up. If you have called the Gardai, when they arrive they will take measurements. If you are unable to call the Gardai then you should take the measurements yourself. So often the scene of one accident can be the cause of another. If you are parked where the driver of an on coming car may not be able to observe you from a distance then you should take all

precautions to prevent another accident. Turn on the hazard warning light of the car. Arrange for someone to wave a flag or a handkerchief to attract the on coming drivers attention. It is advisable to carry a warning triangle and place this along the road some distance from the car.

Do not comment

Even if you are in the wrong do not comment on the accident. Do not admit liability and do not blame the other driver. You never know whether your own interpretation could be wrong. You may learn later that you were not in the wrong or that the other party was equally to blame.

Witnesses

If your solicitor has to argue your claim at a later stage the most valuable support is a good independent witness who will confirm or add to your story. A good witness can make the difference between winning and loosing. Try and obtain the name and address of any witness to the accident. There is no need to obtain a statement from the witness. Your solicitors will do that for you.

Information you should get

Sketch

Draw a sketch of the scene of the accident showing the positions of the vehicles in which they finished up, where each vehicle was damaged, the direction in which they were travelling and all other relevant detail such as road markings and traffic signs.

You should also obtain the following information.

Personal Details

1. Name and address of other party/parties

2. Telephone Number

3. Make and model of car

4. Registration Number

5. Insurance Company and Policy Number (can be obtained from insurance disk displayed on the window)

6. If the other driver is driving someone else's car obtain the name and address of the owner of the car.

7. Name and station of investigating Garda

8. Name, Address and Telephone numbers of all Witnesses

The Accident

1. The Date

2. The Place

3. Time

4. Weather

5. Road conditions

6. Do you know if the driver of the other car or if any of the passengers were wearing a safety belt

7. What comment (if any) did the other party make to you afterwards.

Statement

Set out here in your own words, as soon as conveniently possible, after the accident a statement of how the road accident occurred.

See your solicitor

You should consult with your Solicitor as soon as possible after the accident. You should bring this information to your solicitor with the questionnaire completed and with receipts of all out of pocket expenses incurred. You should also obtain the name and address of all doctors and casualty officers consulted subsequent to the accident.

As and from 22nd July 2004 all personal injury actions must first be brought to the Personal Injuries Assessment Board. No court proceedings can be brought until the action has first been referred to the PIAB without being resolved. We can advise you on the steps involved.