

DAVIS, ADAMS, FREUDENBERG, DAY & GALLI

Attorneys at Law

John E. "Jack" Davis
Richard D. Adams
Gregory T. Day
Matthew G. Galli

Six Hundred Northwest Fifth Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526-2024
☎ 541-476-6627 Fax 541-476-7048
E-mail: RichardA@roguefirm.com
www.roguefirm.com

Carl A. Clyde, Associate

Sherry Watson, Office Manager
Esther E. Stark, Assistant to
Richard D. Adams

What To Do After an Injury Accident

Based on our years of experience representing persons injured through the fault of corporations or individuals, we have found that clients benefit from taking certain steps following the injury. The insurance companies almost always take some of these steps to their advantage. A prompt appointment with an experienced lawyer is important.

Injury claims take many different forms. Except for workers' compensation claims, they usually arise from a corporation's or individual's dangerous conduct. Most common is a collision between cars due to driving errors which endanger the public. Claims may arise from dangerous conditions in a store or dangerous products. Injuries to individuals through harboring dangerous dogs may be the basis for a claim. Unsafe conduct on the part of a doctor or other professional may have caused harm. Sexual abuse or elder abuse may result in a claim. Discrimination in the work place is another common example of an injury claim.

Following an physical injury event, some or all of the following steps should be considered.

- 1) Get prompt and complete medical evaluation. Participate in the treatment recommended with the goal of a complete recovery as soon as possible. Often, the best opportunity for a complete recovery is early in the course of the injury. Counseling for emotional injuries may be important.
- 2) Collect as much information about the details of the event as soon as possible. Sometimes friends or relatives can play key roles if the involved person is in the hospital or otherwise unable. Identify and get contact information for witnesses. Pictures of the scene of injury and the damage to the vehicles in a car wreck can be critical.
- 3) Insurance companies for negligent drivers often contact the injured person immediately. We recommend injured persons NOT give a statement to the insurance company representatives and investigators without first discussing the matter with an experienced personal injury attorney.
- 4) Particularly in motor vehicle wrecks, the at fault party's insurance company will often attempt to resolve the claim far too soon by offering a small amount of money in exchange for a full release of rights. We recommend you NOT do that without getting advice from an experienced personal injury attorney.
- 5) Be aware that in almost all motor vehicle collisions, Personal Injury Protection (PIP) will be available for injured persons to get all the immediate and ongoing medical treatment up to certain minimums. Those minimums are for at least a year or up to \$15,000 plus certain wage loss benefits.
- 6) Contact an experienced personal injury attorney to get advice on your rights. Once you retain that attorney, almost always on a contingent fee basis, that attorney will run interference between you and the insurance companies and give you the freedom and peace of mind to concentrate on recovery from injuries.