

TXu 950 - 864



TXu000950864



Personal Injury & Auto Accident Guide
Glove Compartment Pamphlet

DONALD SEPOLIO
Attorney At Law

(713) 477-2878
Offices in Houston and Austin

This pamphlet is intended as a guide to help you in the event of an automobile accident, and is not intended to be legal advise. *Donald Sepolio*, began handling accident claims and cases in 1984, first as a paralegal then as a law clerk and finally became licensed by the Texas Supreme Court to practice law in 1989. During that time period *Donald Sepolio*, has successfully handled a large variety of personal injury cases, and is currently a member of a number of professional organizations and has been selected to sit on the Texas Bar Grievance Committee. *Donald Sepolio*, has demonstrated a commitment to service to his clients and excellence in the practice of the law.

1. STOP

State law requires that if you are involved in an accident, you must stop. Failure to stop can result in serious criminal consequences. If, however, you feel that stopping under the circumstances may be dangerous then you may proceed to the first safe area and report the accident. Extreme caution should be used in exercising this judgment. The decision not to stop must be a reasonable one made based on a realistic assessment of the risks associated with stopping immediately. For example, if you feel that stopping in the middle of a busy freeway is not prudent then you should stop at the nearest safe location or if you are rear-ended on a dark lonely roadway and you feel that it would be prudent to drive to a lighted area where there are other people then that may be reasonable under the circumstances.

2. LOOK

Once you have stopped you should survey the area for injury victims, witnesses, traffic control devices, skid marks as well as any other noteworthy landmarks or items. The usual sequence of events at an accident scene are typically as follows:

- (1) Determine the safest place to stop your vehicle.
- (2) Determine as best you can if you or any of your passengers are injured and take the appropriate action based on that assessment.
- (3) Determine if anyone else is injured and act appropriately.
- (4) Call paramedics if necessary **DO NOT** attempt to render first aid or move an injured person unless you feel qualified to do so under the circumstances.
- (5) Secure the accident scene from further accidents, by using makers to warn other drivers of disabled vehicles or injury victims in or near the roadway.
- (6) Contact the appropriate law enforcement officials if the accident is severe enough. Usually if there are injuries, disabled vehicles, property damage in excess of \$500.00 or other property is damaged then the local law enforcement agency should be notified.

3. LISTEN

Obtain as much information you can at the accident scene and be careful what you say. An automobile accident may be a physically and emotionally traumatic experience and it is not unusual for someone involved in an accident to misstate information or fail to obtain information necessary to file a claim. This information pamphlet contains a form which can be used at the time of an accident.

4. CONSULT YOUR DOCTOR

If you are injured you should seek the appropriate medical attention as soon as possible. Sometimes paramedics are called to the scene to render aid and if necessary to transport injury victims to a hospital. However, in a significant number of accidents symptoms of injuries may not be immediately obvious. For example accident victims may sustain head injuries, fractured or broken bones, internal injuries or soft tissue injuries which may not manifest any symptoms until the condition worsens. An accident victim should see a doctor if there is any symptom of any injury.

5. CONSULT YOUR ATTORNEY IMMEDIATELY

Anyone involved in an accident should consult their attorney immediately. The attorney will be able to advise you what should be done to protect your rights and how to proceed. If action is necessary the attorney will have the knowledge and resources to protect your rights. Remember that the other party is probably consulting their attorney and insurance company who are working to protect the rights of the liable party. DO NOT give a statement to anyone without consulting your attorney first. Your attorney will also inform you of your duty to report the incident to your carrier.

6. ACCIDENT INFORMATION FORM

Date of Accident: _____ Hour _____ a.m./p.m.
Accident location: City _____ State _____
Street or Hwy _____ Intersecting Street _____
Weather Conditions _____ Road surface _____
Describe Accident _____

Other Vehicles

Driver's Name _____ Date of Birth _____
Driver's License No. _____ Telephone No. _____
Address _____
Car Make _____ Model _____ License Plate No. _____
Owner _____ Telephone No _____
Address _____
Insurance Co. _____ Telephone No _____
Policy No. _____ Policy Period _____
Name(s) on Policy _____
Names of Passengers _____

Investigating Officer Name _____ Police Dept. _____

Witness Information

Name _____ Telephone No. _____
Address _____
Name _____ Telephone No. _____
Address _____

Generally you are obligated to provide the following information the other party(s) involved in an accident, AFTER, the other party(s) have provided you with the same information regarding themselves. In addition to the following information you should obtain as much information on the attached accident form, from the other party(s) as possible.

Name: _____ Telephone Number () _____

Address: _____

Insurance Company: _____

Policy Number: _____ Telephone No. () _____

