

If you are involved in a collision, the information you gather at the scene can be vital to your recovery. Insurance companies often look for any ambiguity to minimize claims. Use this checklist to help ensure the facts are documented exactly as they occurred.

### 1. Document the Scene and Context

- Point of Impact:** Capture clear photos of where the vehicles actually collided.
- Final Rest:** Photograph where the cars ended up before they are moved, showing their orientation to one another.
- Traffic Context:** Snap photos of relevant traffic lights, stop signs, or road markings that may have played a role.

### 2. Identify All Parties Involved

- Driver Info:** Take clear photos of the other driver's license and insurance card to prevent transcription errors.
- Vehicle Info:** Photograph the license plates and any commercial logos or DOT numbers on trucks or vans.
- Witness Contacts:** Collect names and phone numbers of anyone who saw the event occur. Their independent accounts are incredibly valuable.

### 3. Physical Evidence on the Road

- Tire Marks:** Photograph skid marks (or the lack of them) to help establish vehicle speeds.
- Debris Field:** Document broken glass or car parts on the ground to show the exact collision point.
- Environmental Conditions:** Capture the weather, lighting, and any road hazards like construction or potholes.

### 4. Use Video for Perspective

- 360° Walkaround:** Record a brief video walking around the entire scene to show the "big picture" and the surrounding traffic flow.
- Ambient Evidence:** Video can capture sounds, signal timing, and visibility levels that still photos might miss.

### 5. Document Injuries and Interior Force

- Visible Injuries:** Take photos of any immediate bruising, cuts, or seatbelt burns.
- Interior Damage:** Photograph deployed airbags, cracked windshields, or damage inside the cabin to show the physical force of the impact.

### Before You Call the Insurance Company

- **Prioritize Safety:** Always seek medical attention immediately if you or your passengers feel any pain.
- **Avoid Admissions:** Refrain from making statements regarding fault or apologizing at the scene.
- **Be Cautious with Statements:** Avoid giving a recorded statement to insurance adjusters until you have consulted with counsel.
- **Call Frenkel First:** Contact us as soon as possible. We can help you report the claim and ensure your rights are protected from the very beginning.