

FILING A CAR ACCIDENT CLAIM IN OREGON

(Almost) Everything You Need to Know

Time Limits for Filing

Under the Oregon “statute of limitations,” residents involved in a car accident are held under a strict time limit in which they can file a personal injury claim for any injuries suffered from an accident. The time limit is two years. That means that the injured party has two years to file an injury claim against the at-fault driver or else they likely lose the chance to collect compensation.

The deadline to file a wrongful death claim in the case that the accident is fatal is three years.

Keep in mind that you are expected to make a claim to your insurance company within a few days or weeks.

Important Steps to Take After the Accident

After a car accident in Oregon, you will likely be in shock and feel a sense of dismay. It is important to take steps to protect your rights and ensure that you get the best possible chance of obtaining full and fair compensation. Here are some steps that you should take immediately following the accident:

- Move yourself and others out of harm’s way - Safety should be your first and foremost concern.
- Call 911. If you notice that yourself or anyone else is injured, make sure that you get medical help at once. This step is also important in the filing of a police report.
- Collect information from all other parties - exchange insurance information, contact information, drivers' license numbers, and license plate information.
- Get contact information of witnesses - This will be very helpful in building a claim.
- Take photos of the scene of the accident - Having photographs can help provide proof and assist with the investigation.
- Contact a car accident lawyer to discuss your legal options - An experienced attorney can help you build a powerful legal claim.

Do's / Don'ts of Filing a Car Accident Claim

Here are some helpful guidelines on if you have been involved in any kind of motor vehicle accident in Oregon:

DO contact your insurance company as soon as possible after the accident.

DO read your own insurance policy and become familiar with what you may be entitled to and what you may have to file a claim to obtain.

DO NOT talk to the insurance company or any other parties without first talking to an attorney.

DO be honest when you take to your attorney and provide all details of the accident.

DO NOT accept a settlement without having an attorney looking it over and ensuring that you receive full and fair compensation.

DO call the police after the accident. This is important to file a police report.

DO seek medical attention immediately.

DO NOT move your vehicle while waiting for the police to arrive - unless your vehicle poses a hazard to other traffic.

Common Mistakes to Avoid After a Car Accident

Mistake #1 - Embellishing any aspect of the accident or your injuries. Honesty is always the best policy, especially when it comes to filing a legal claim.

Mistake #2 - Leaving the scene of the accident. Even if you are not at fault, do not leave the scene of the accident until a police report has been filed. This can jeopardize your case and make you appear at fault. Additionally, it can result in criminal prosecution.

Mistake #3 - Not hiring an attorney. Even if you think your case is simple, speak with a lawyer during an initial consultation to discuss the logistics and your rights.

Mistake #4 - Apologizing. It is a natural tendency to say, "I'm sorry." to other parties involved in the accident. Doing this, however, can make you appear at fault.