



SCHOENFELD
LAW FIRM EST 1982

TOP 13 MISTAKES TO AVOID FOLLOWING AN AUTO ACCIDENT

WHAT NOT TO DO IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AN
ACCIDENT



TOP 13 MISTAKES TO AVOID FOLLOWING AN AUTO ACCIDENT

Automobile, 18-wheeler, Company Truck, and Motorcycle accidents are a national epidemic, killing or injuring millions of Americans each year. Auto accidents are very frightening and confusing experiences, and victims injured on Louisiana roadways may be entitled to financial damages.

Schoenfeld Law Firm's 'Top 13 Mistakes To Avoid Following An Auto Accident' will help to put yourself in the BEST position possible to get a fair recovery for your damages. We are a Voice for Victims.



Stephen Schoenfeld

Morlas Schoenfeld

ACADIANA
(337) 394-4071

NEW
ORLEANS
(504) 586-0025

#1

NOT CALLING THE POLICE

Accident reports help document your case and are written proof that your accident actually took place. As nice as the other driver may seem, it is a mistake to trust that the other driver will be honest and admit to their own insurance company that they were at fault, much less that they were even involved in an accident.

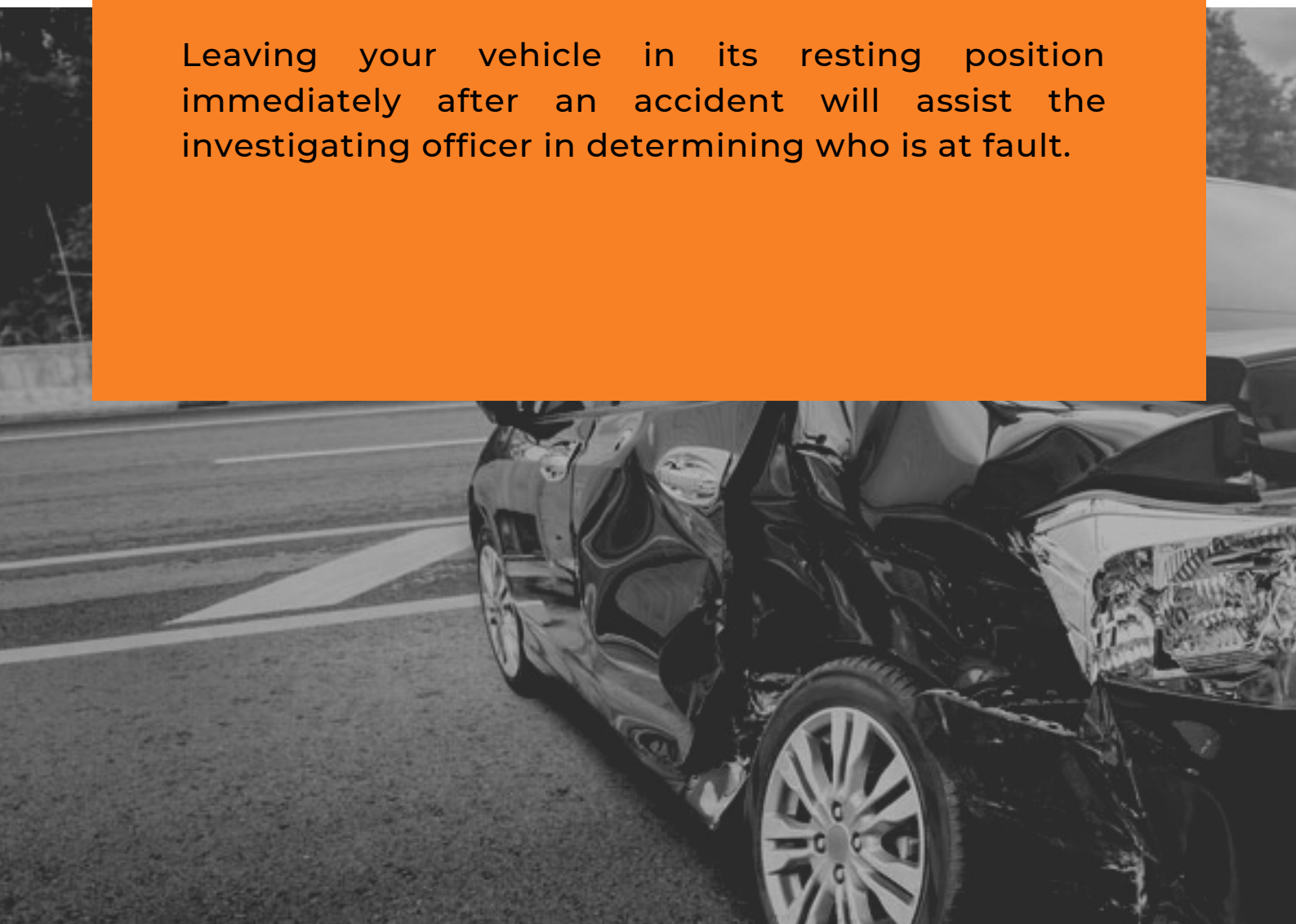
Play it safe and include the police in investigating your accident so that they can draft an accident report.

2

MOVING YOUR VEHICLE PREMATURELY

There is a temptation to move your vehicle immediately after an auto accident, especially if it is in the way of traffic. Leave it in its resting position until the police arrive, if at all possible. Once the police note your vehicle's location, they will let you know when to move it.

Leaving your vehicle in its resting position immediately after an accident will assist the investigating officer in determining who is at fault.

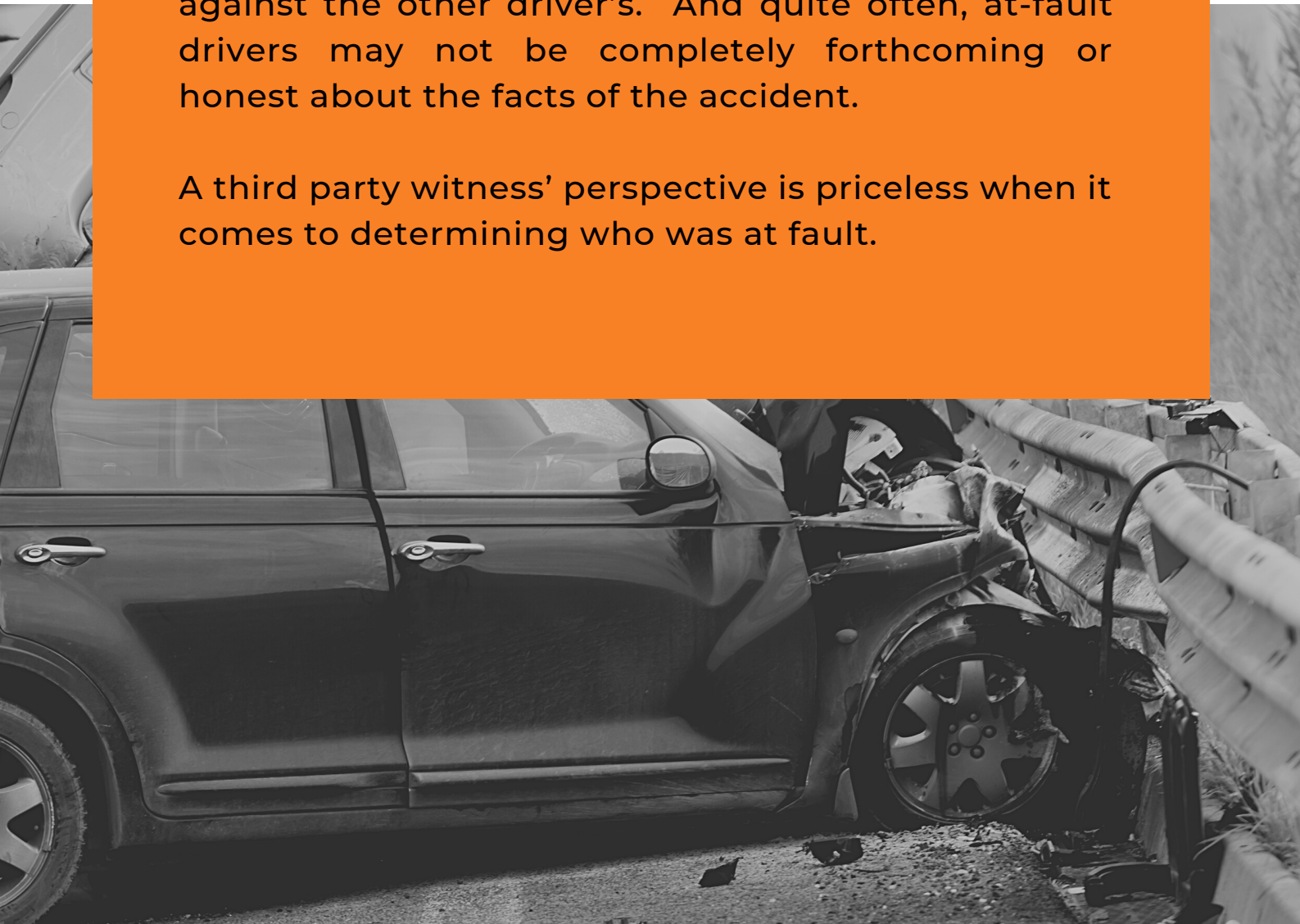


#3

NOT GETTING THE NAMES OF WITNESSES

It is important to get the contact information of all witnesses to your accident at the scene of the accident so that they can be questioned about what they saw more thoroughly at a later date. Having witnesses to an accident can only strengthen your case because, in most situations, it is only your word against the other driver's. And quite often, at-fault drivers may not be completely forthcoming or honest about the facts of the accident.

A third party witness' perspective is priceless when it comes to determining who was at fault.



#4

NOT EXCHANGING INSURANCE INFORMATION

Try to get the name, policy number, and telephone number of the insurance companies that insure the other vehicles in the accident. Quickly identifying the responsible insurance company allows you to immediately make a claim for vehicle damage, car rental, and bodily injury.

Otherwise, you will have to wait until the police report is available to hopefully acquire the contact information of the responsible insurance company.



5

NOT TAKING PHOTOS OF ACCIDENT SCENE

If you are able to, take photos of all vehicles involved in the accident and the scene of the accident. If you fail to do so, it will be more difficult to prove your case and prove how bad the accident really was. Pictures speak a thousand words. Without photos, you will be limited to the police report's description of the vehicle damage, which may be very vague. Insurance companies love to claim that because there was not much damage to an injured person's vehicle, the claimant could not have been too injured.

Providing your own photos of the accident scene will help prevent an insurance adjuster from incorrectly concluding that there were limited damages.



6

NOT MENTIONING TO POLICE YOU ARE INJURED

It is important to keep any injuries documented. One of the first things an insurance adjuster looks at is whether there were any complaints of injury on the accident report. If you are injured, make sure you tell the investigating officer so that he can call an ambulance if needed.

Additionally, if you do not mention to the officer that you are injured, it will not be documented in the police report, and an insurance adjuster may question why you never mentioned any injuries immediately following the accident.



#7

NOT SEEKING MEDICAL TREATMENT

If you are in any pain following an auto accident, you should get necessary medical treatment immediately. Even if you have only a little discomfort following an accident, it is always better to play it safe and get checked out so that nothing gets overlooked and necessary medical testing can be done. Plus, medical records are necessary to help prove your claims of injury.

If you are injured, but choose not to seek any medical attention, it could be argued that you were never injured. You must document your injuries through medical records.

8

NOT CONFIRMING THE NAMES OF PASSENGERS

If you fail to mention the name of any of the passengers in your vehicle at the time of the police accident investigation, they will not be included in the police report. You will have to contact the police department later on to supply the names of the missing passengers. Then, the investigating officer will have to amend the report by adding the names.

Not only will this cause an unnecessary delay, but any insurance companies involved may question why the passengers were not included in the first place.

#9

NOT GETTING THE POLICE ACCIDENT ITEM NUMBER

After each accident, the investigating officer should provide to each driver involved an accident item number that will help you quickly identify the police report for your accident.

Without it, acquiring the proper accident report from the proper police department may be delayed.



#10

GIVING A STATEMENT TO INSURANCE COMPANIES

Always consult with an attorney before giving a statement to an insurance company. Giving a statement can make or break your case.

Insurance company representatives may pressure you into stating information that is not accurate about your accident, which in turn, can damage the future outcome of your case.

#11

TRYING TO SETTLE A CASE TOO QUICKLY

What's the rush? The only way to be fairly compensated for your injuries is to get the necessary medical treatment first, and talk settlement or litigation later. If you are suffering from injuries and want to get a quick settlement, we can help you do so. But, you will only be shortchanging yourself because insurance companies will only evaluate your case based on the up-to-date medical reports.

It is very common for insurance adjusters to offer quick settlements to those involved in accidents, immediately following the accident. As enticing as these offers may sound at first, they often prevent you from recognizing the true extent of your injuries and the true value of your case. If you have an injury, you will be better off getting the necessary medical treatment and consulting with an attorney to assist you with settling your claim.

#12

NOT HIRING AN ATTORNEY

Hiring Schoenfeld Law Firm is a unique experience. When you choose us, you get two attorneys (Stephen & Morlas Schoenfeld) for the price of one. You essentially have two sets of eyes viewing the same case. Together, we provide our clients with the best approach to handling and resolving their cases.

From start to finish, we are hands on with our clients. After our initial meeting with you, you will always be able to contact us directly, and be provided with the status of your case with ease.

We will guide you throughout the legal process and make sure you understand the dynamics of your case in easy to understand terms. We realize that cases run a lot smoother if our clients are aware of what's going on. So, our clients are always kept in the loop and updated on their cases in real time.

Plus, by providing our clients with our personal cell phone numbers, we are always just a phone call or text away!

#13

NOT BEING HONEST WITH YOUR LAWYER

It is important to be honest and clear about how your accident took place, and to let your lawyer know of any past injuries or accidents you may have had. A history of past injuries and accidents is not a bad thing, if handled correctly. We need to know this information so that we can properly handle your case.

We are on your side, and want to do the very best for you.

HIRE AN ATTORNEY WHO IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE & WILLING TO TAKE YOUR CALLS

GET A FREE CONSULTATION
With the Lawyers of Schoenfeld Law Firm

At Schoenfeld Law Firm, when you hire us, you get us!

You will be able to speak to Morlas Schoenfeld or Stephen Schoenfeld directly. You will not be forwarded to an answering service or an associate. We will provide you with our personal cell phone numbers, and you can call or text us anytime - after work hours, on weekends, and during holidays.

The lawyers of Schoenfeld Law Firm stand ready to help with your case.



ACADIANA
(337) 394-4071

NEW ORLEANS
(504) 586-0025



TWO BROTHERS | ONE LAW FIRM

ACADIANA

201 West Berard St
St. Martinville, LA 70582
(337) 394-4071

1819 West Pinhook Rd,
Suite 251
Lafayette, LA 70508
(337) 394-4071

NEW ORLEANS

318 Harrison Ave, 2nd Floor
New Orleans, LA 70124
(504) 586-0025

