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The J. Gonzalez Law Firm has five do's and don'ts to prepare yourself for what comes after an auto crash.

The Do's

1. Do Go to the Doctor

Being in a car crash is no time to tough it out. Even injuries that don't seem that severe can cause problems later and many may not be noticeable right away. See a doctor as soon as you can.

2. Do Call the Police

No matter how minor the accident may seem, you need to call the police. They will help to sort out the situation and create the accident report you will need to justify your insurance claim. Documentation can save you from a bad situation, when it comes to your word against the other driver(s).

3. Do Gather All the Information You Can

If you are not injured and are able to move, get as much information as possible about the crash.

This includes taking photos of the scene, damage to the vehicles, and road conditions. If there is anyone who witnessed the accident, get their names, contact information, and a statement if possible. Make sure you obtain the police report as soon as it is available.

4. Do Report to Your Insurance Company

Tell them the basics of the incident and nothing more, as that is all you can really do anyway. All the information will be available to everyone in time, but they need to be kept in the loop from the beginning.

5. Do Hire an Attorney

If you are hurt in an accident, the personal injury lawyers of the J. Gonzalez Law Firm can help you to obtain the damages you deserve for your pain.

The Don'ts

1. Don't Stop Doctor Visits

You need to attend every doctor's visit that you are scheduled for. If your condition gets worse because you stopped treatment, this can greatly damage your insurance claim or lawsuit.

2. Don't Compromise the Crash Site

In order for a proper report to be filed by the police, everything has to remain as it was at the moment of the crash. Both vehicles need to remain at the scene of the accident and neither should be moved at all.

3. Don't Mishandle Gathering Evidence

The ways you handle evidence can hurt your case. Never throw away evidence. Waiting to take statements from witnesses will also affect the testimonies that you get back.

Finally, taking pictures is important for any consulting you do with a personal injury attorney, but don't post them on your social media accounts, period.

4. Don't Tell Your Insurer Anything You Don't Need To

Never admit blame or give details about the incident that they can retrieve on their own. This includes making any recorded statements before consulting with an attorney.

5. Don't Accept a Settlement Without Representation

Taking a quick settlement without consulting with a personal injury attorney or waiting to see the full extent of any injuries sustained will hurt you in the long run. Working with an attorney can help you devise and follow a plan to get you the claim you need for your future.