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WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT

Learning the Law™ Seminar

27th in a Series

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WHAT TO SAY AND DO AT THE ACCIDENT SCENE

Stephen A. Hutchinson, Attorney

- A. Factors That Affect Liability:
 - 1. Reasonable and prudent driver standard
 - 2. Comparative negligence
 - 3. Violation of traffic laws
 - 4. Causation

- B. At The Accident Scene:
 - 1. Observation and notes
 - 2. Damage assessment
 - 3. Police and emergency services
 - 4. Witnesses and assistance

- C. Information You Need To Get:
 - 1. Names, Addresses and Phone Numbers
 - a. Other drivers
 - b. Witnesses
 - c. Police Officers and emergency personnel
 - 2. Notes on conditions

3. Pictures of damage to vehicle
4. Measurements of location of impact and positions of vehicles
5. Insurance information
6. Road conditions, traffic conditions
7. Statements of others

D. What You Should Do:

1. Stay at scene and cooperate with police
2. Assist others if able
3. How are you feeling?
4. See a doctor
5. Write down what happened
6. File accident report
7. Notify your automobile insurance company of the accident
8. For serious injuries, get a lawyer

E. Effect of Traffic Citation:

1. Guilty plea
2. Bail forfeiture – Trial