

# Watch Out For Motorcycles!

## Your Accident Folder

**THE ABC'S OF STAYING ORGANIZED:** The categories below help start your "Accident Folder". Your attorney is going to want this information to help you obtain the greatest possible recovery.

**HOW THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED:** As soon as possible, write down your own description of the accident, writing down how the accident happened in your own words. Start with the date, time, location and simply write down the accident description noting your direction of travel, any traffic control devices, the weather conditions; and, noting all things you remember about the accident itself. Memories fade over time and by writing down your accident description, preserving the details, the record created may help you and your attorney.

**YOUR WITNESSES & PHOTOGRAPHS:** Keep a record of any and witnesses, listing their full names and contact information. List others who were riding with you when the accident happened, eye witnesses at the accident scene, bystanders coming to your aid, friends or family visiting at the hospital, friends or co-workers who may testify about your health before the accident, your accident injuries and the affects or the change in lifestyle since the crash. Additionally, keep all photographs of the scene, the vehicles, your injuries, etc. .

**YOUR CRASH REPORT AND TOWING SERVICE RECORDS:** One of the first things you are likely to receive is the investigating officer's business card and the related crash report information. You may also receive a Drivers Exchange of Information form. This is basically a carbon copy of the first page of the crash report. You may also receive papers regarding the towing of your motorcycle, naming the recovery or towing service, listing their name, address and telephone numbers.

**YOUR MEDICAL RECORDS:** You are likely to receive hospital discharge instructions, prescriptions, a wristband and other related

items. The discharge records or instruction sheets contain valuable information including a listing of your injuries, prescriptions, restrictions and referrals. Keep all such medical records in your Accident Folder; and as you see other doctors, you want to make sure to update this section of your folder.

**YOUR MEDICAL BILLS:** In the days, weeks and months after an accident, you are likely to receive medical bills from the emergency transportation service, the hospital, emergency room physicians, radiology departments, your doctors, diagnostic or MRI facilities, orthopedic suppliers, prescriptions bills and others. Keep a dedicated section of your folder to receive all such bills.

**YOUR LOST WAGES:** Keep a separate record to record all of the lost time from work. Write down the name, address and full contact information regarding your employment at the time of accident, also listing your job title, position and salary or wage information.

**YOUR OTHER DAMAGES:** Keep a record of any other expenses you have incurred as a result of the accident. Mileage log to and from doctor visits, yard service receipts, house service or maid service and all other receipts received, to prove all economic losses incurred. Also consider keeping your pain journal in the Accident File, this is a diary of sorts providing the date, how the injuries affected your daily activities, to support your pain and suffering claims.

**YOUR INSURANCE INFORMATION:** After the accident, your attorney will ask for: 1) The at fault driver's insurance information; 2) Your motorcycle insurance information; 3) All household automobile insurance information; 4) Your health insurance information; 5) All other sources that have paid any benefits as a result of the accident, through any private, public, supplemental assistance programs, or the like.

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## **CORRESPONDENCE/OTHER INFORMATION:**

After an accident, keep a copy of everything in your Accident Folder. If something does not fit into one of the categories mentioned above, everything is important. You have probably heard the phrase "There is no such thing as a stupid question." The same goes for any paper received as a result of the accident. Your attorney needs to see everything, to handle your case completely, to maximize your recovery.

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