

## How to Protect Yourself If You Are Injured

If you are injured as the result of the negligence of someone else it is crucial that you document what caused your injury. Collecting as much evidence as possible to support your claim is essential, and will almost always make it easier to settle your claim for a fair amount. If a lawsuit is necessary to get the insurance company to pay your reasonable damages, the evidence collected early on becomes even more critical. What you do in the time immediately following your injury will make a difference in your being treated fairly.

### **All Injury Cases:**

**Call 911** to get help for anyone who was injured.

**Gather the information** listed below. If you would like a free copy of the **Bohm, Boyle & Jones** Accident Guide, please call our office and we will promptly send you an accident guide or each of your vehicles.

**Do Not discuss the collision** with anyone, excepting answer questions asked by police officers.

**Do Not take any blame** for the incident.

**Do Not talk to the other side's insurance company**, and never sign anything.

**Call us immediately** for a free consultation. The time right after the incident is crucial to fair resolution of your claim.

Always take photographs of your injuries and damages. Take photographs of your physical injuries, including bruises, cuts, scrapes, or stitches.

### **Automobile Collisions:**

Write down the license number(s) of other vehicles involved.

Obtain insurance and drivers license information from all other drivers.

Obtain police officers names and badge numbers.

Obtain names, addresses & telephone numbers of any witnesses.

Take pictures of other vehicles involved in the collision.

Take pictures of the surrounding location and roadway, paying special attention to skid marks and debris on the roadway.

Take pictures of the surrounding area.

### **Slip and fall incidents:**

Obtain names, addresses and telephone numbers of any witnesses.

Take photographs (as soon as possible) of the location where you fell, especially the walking surface. Pay special attention to any warning signs, cones, or any rugs or other floor coverings.

Save the shoes and outer clothing you were wearing at the time you fell. Place them inside separate plastic bags and seal each so any materials stuck to them in the fall will be preserved. Do not wash the clothing.

### **Animal attacks:**

Call Animal Control and report the attack.

Obtain the name, address and telephone number of the animal's owner.

Obtain the dog license information, including the license number.

Remember, the time immediately after you are injured can be crucial in making your claim. Evidence needs to be gathered, witnesses interviewed and the other important facts are developed and preserved. Also there are time limits for making a claim. As you can see, to protect your rights, it is important that you call **Bohm, Boyle & Jones** at **(602) 840-8787** as soon as possible after your injury.