

# WISCONSIN 10-10-10

## CAR ACCIDENT CHECKLIST

Nobody wants to think about being in a car accident. Unfortunately, the odds are that we all will be involved in at least one crash at some point our lives. It helps to be prepared so that you will be able to protect both your safety and your legal rights.

The Cochran Firm Wisconsin LLP asks you to download a copy of our Wisconsin "10-10-10" Car Accident Checklist. Keep it stored in your car or share this link with your family and friends.

We have divided our checklist into three topics – **Before a Crash**, **At the Scene of a Crash** and **After a Crash** – and included 10 important items or steps under each topic. We hope you can use this checklist to be better prepared for a crash and to respond properly at the accident scene and in the period that follows.



If you would like to learn more about what to do after an auto accident, please contact us by calling our Milwaukee office at **(414) 223-1050 (local)** or **(888) 979-7657 (toll-free)** or by filling out our online form. We would be glad to provide a free evaluation of your case.

## BEFORE A CRASH

It is important to keep proper documents and gear in your vehicle in case an accident happens. Make sure you have the following:

- ✓ Wisconsin Certificate of Vehicle Registration
- ✓ Proof of auto insurance
- ✓ Jumper cables
- ✓ Tire-changing equipment (spare tire, jack, wrench) and/or tire sealant
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Blankets or extra coat(s)
- ✓ Small shovel
- ✓ Kitty litter or sand (for use in getting tire traction in snow)
- ✓ Small tool kit
- ✓ Flashlight (along with extra batteries)

## AT THE SCENE OF A CRASH

If you have been in a crash, stay calm and follow these steps (in order, if possible):

- ✓ Move your car to a safe area off the road (if it has not been disabled)
- ✓ Check for injuries to yourself, your passenger or others involved in the crash.
- ✓ Exchange information with any other driver involved in the crash, including:
- ✓ Call 911 to report your accident
- ✓ Get names and contact information from witnesses before they leave.

- > Names
- > License plate numbers
- > Addresses
- > Driver's license numbers
- > Contact phone numbers (cell or home)
- > Auto insurance providers

✔ Provide any requested information to the responding police officer (and make sure to note the officer's name and agency).

✔ Take photos of the vehicles involved and the surrounding scene, including:

- > License plates
- > Exterior damage
- > Vehicle interiors
- > Debris
- > Skid Marks
- > Street signs or other landmarks

✔ Call a towing company or get the name of the towing company that is called to the scene (make sure you know where your vehicle is being taken).

✔ If you are not transported by ambulance, call for a family member, friend or taxi to transport you to the nearest hospital for emergency care and treatment.

✔ Write down as many details as you can about the crash while they are still fresh in your memory.

## AFTER A CRASH

What you do in the days and weeks after a car accident will be important. Please pay close attention to the following:

✔ After you receive emergency care, visit your family doctor for a follow-up check.

✔ Contact your local law enforcement agency or the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and order a copy of the accident report.

✔ If you are experiencing emotional trauma, do not downplay the seriousness of your condition. Seek proper counseling.

✔ Do not allow your car to be repaired until all damage has been documented.

✔ Report your accident to your own auto insurance company but do not provide a recorded statement unless you have spoken first with an attorney.

✔ If contacted by the other driver's insurance company, do not provide a recorded statement, accept a settlement offer or sign a release until an attorney has reviewed your case.

✔ Do not discuss your accident on Facebook, Twitter or other social media sites.

✔ Start an "accident file". Use it to keep track of all documents related to your auto accident, including:

- > Contact information
- > Photos of the crash and your injuries
- > Auto insurance policies and correspondence
- > Medical bills and receipts and health insurance records
- > Car rental or repair bills and receipts
- > Any other accident-related costs and receipts
- > Missed work hours

✔ Keep a private journal that documents your injuries and your recovery.

✔ Consult an attorney to learn more about your rights and legal options.