

# YOUR ADVOCATE

*A Newsletter From The Law Offices of Eleanor Southers*

## What To Do When You Are In An Accident

You're sitting in your car waiting for the light to change from red to green when whoops! ... a loud thud, a jarring of your body and yes you have been in an accident. Most people, especially in congested Los Angeles (nobody walks in LA) know enough to gather some information about the other driver and car at the scene of an accident but there are some very specific precautions you should take:

- Get the name, address and telephone number of the driver and the make and license number of his or her car.
- It is illegal to drive in California without insurance. Write down the name, address, and policy number of the driver's insurance company.
- If you feel well enough you can now check the damage to your car and the damage to the other car involved.
- Write down the exact location of the accident. Note the direction you were traveling.
- Get yourself to a doctor or chiropractor as soon as possible. It is possible that you will not feel any pain for many hours or even as long as two to three days, but medical experts tell us that everyone who has been in an accident should be examined by a medical professional. Of course, if you are in severe pain or feel that something may be broken, go immediately to an emergency hospital.

- Should you call the police? Yes, it's always a good idea to see if they will come and make a report. Nowadays, with citywide cutbacks, they may not be able to come to the scene if there are no serious injuries.
- Get the names, addresses and phone numbers of anyone who saw the accident.
- If you are concerned about getting your car fixed, paying for your medical bills resulting from the accident, and knowing your rights when dealing with insurance companies, contact an attorney that emphasizes the practice of personal injury. They're ready to protect your interests and answer your questions

Most importantly, keep calm, think positive, and call a friend or relative to help if you need to.



Ms. Southers is a prominent personal injury and Workers' Compensation attorney. She is available for free consultations. You may call her at (831) 466-9132 if you are in an accident or are injured at work.

**ELEANOR SOUTHERS, ESQ**  
1362 Pacific Avenue, Suite 216  
Santa Cruz, California 95060