



COLORADO PERSONAL INJURY GUIDE

# What to Do After an Injury

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A quick-start guide from Tactical Lawyers to protect your health and your claim in the days that matter most.



PRESENTED BY YOUR ATTORNEY

## Dagny Van Der Jagt

Founding Attorney · Personal Injury

She leads our Colorado personal injury practice with a treatment-first approach, helping injured Coloradans get the care they need while she builds the claim and pursues every source of coverage.

Getting hurt in an accident is overwhelming. In the first few days you are dealing with pain, doctors, missed work, and a lot of uncertainty. The choices you make early can shape both your recovery and any claim you bring later. A few of those calls matter more than people realize, and one of them should be to a lawyer, sooner than you might think. This guide walks you through the steps that protect your health and your case. The first conversation is free.

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### **Get medical care first**

Your health comes before everything else. Call 911 if anyone is seriously hurt. Even if you feel fine, see a doctor within a day or two. Some injuries, like concussions, whiplash, and internal damage, do not show up right away. A prompt medical record also ties your injury to the accident, which matters if you file a claim. Follow your treatment plan and keep every appointment.

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### **Call a lawyer right away**

This is one of the first calls you should make, not the last. The hours and days after an accident are when evidence is freshest and most at risk. Skid marks fade, footage gets erased, witnesses forget, and the other side's insurance company is already building its case. The sooner an attorney is involved, the more can be done to protect you. The call costs nothing, and in injury cases there is no fee unless we win, so there is no reason to wait.



*Get checked by a doctor, then call a lawyer. Both should happen in the first day or two.*

**3 Document everything you can**

If you are able, take photos at the scene: the vehicles or the hazard, your injuries, the location, and whatever caused it. Get names and phone numbers for everyone involved and any witnesses. Write down what happened while it is fresh, including the date, time, weather, and what you remember. Small details fade fast, and they can matter later.

**4 Report the accident**

Make an official record. For a car crash, call the police and ask for a report. For a fall or an injury on someone’s property, tell the owner or manager and ask for an incident report. If you were hurt at work, notify your employer in writing as soon as you can. Keep a copy of every report.

**5 Do not deal with insurance alone**

The other side’s insurer may call quickly and sound friendly. Their job is to pay as little as possible. Before you give them anything, talk to us. You do not have to provide a recorded statement, and you should not. Do not accept a first offer before you know the full extent of your injuries, because once you sign, you usually cannot reopen the claim.



*Do not give a recorded statement or sign anything before you talk to an attorney.*

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### Watch the deadline

Colorado law limits how long you have to act. In most injury cases you have two years to file, and three years if a motor vehicle was involved (C.R.S. § 13-80-102 and § 13-80-101). Some claims have a much shorter window. A claim against a government entity, for example, can require formal notice within about six months. Waiting too long can end a valid claim before it ever starts, which is one more reason to make that call early.



### Meet your attorney

**Dagny Van Der Jagt**, founding attorney, leads our personal injury practice with a treatment-first approach. She helps injured Coloradans get the care they need while she builds the claim and pursues every source of coverage. When you call, you talk directly with an attorney, not a call center.

### Talk to us today

Call **(720) 499-0000** or visit [tacticallawyers.com](http://tacticallawyers.com). Tell us what happened, and we will give you straight answers and a realistic plan, at no cost. The sooner you call, the more we can do.



*You focus on healing. We will handle the rest.*

This guide is general information, not legal advice, and reading it does not create an attorney-client relationship. Every case is different, and outcomes depend on the specific facts and the law. For advice about your situation, speak with a licensed Colorado attorney. Attorney advertising.