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FREE GUIDE · 2026 EDITION

Texas Motorcycle Accident Checklist

What riders should do after a crash to protect their health and their claim.

Motorcycle riders face more serious injuries than drivers, and they often face something else after a crash: insurance adjusters and juries who assume the rider was at fault. What you do at the scene and in the days that follow can make the difference. Keep this checklist handy, and keep the **Accident Information Form** at the end with your registration.

1

AT THE MOMENT OF THE CRASH

Immediately After the Crash

- ☐ **Get out of traffic if you can do so safely.** If you can't move without pain, stay still and wait for help.
- ☐ **Leave your helmet on if you have any neck or back pain.** Let paramedics remove it to avoid making a spinal injury worse.
- ☐ **Call 911.** Texas law requires you to notify police when someone is injured or killed, or a vehicle can't be safely driven.
- ☐ **Get checked out, even if you feel fine.** Adrenaline hides pain, and road rash can become infected. Head, wrist, and knee injuries are common and often show up later.

> Never leave the scene of an accident. Leaving can be a crime under Texas law.

2

BEFORE YOU LEAVE

At the Scene

- ☐ **Take photos and video**, or ask someone to take them for you.
  - Your motorcycle, the other vehicle, and where each came to rest
  - Road hazards: gravel, potholes, oil, missing signs, or poor lighting
  - Your helmet and gear, and your visible injuries
  - License plates, skid marks, and traffic signals
- ☐ **Exchange information** with the driver: name, phone, driver's license, insurance, and license plate.
- ☐ **Write down what the driver says.** Statements like "I didn't see you" are important evidence.
- ☐ **Get witness names and phone numbers.** Independent witnesses are especially valuable for riders.
- ☐ **Speak with police calmly and truthfully.** State only the facts, don't guess about speed or distance, and ask for the crash report number.
- ☐ **Have your bike towed to a safe place you choose,** not left at an impound lot.

3

DAYS 0–3

In the First Few Days

- [ ] **Get medical care and follow your treatment plan.** Keep every appointment.
- [ ] **Preserve the evidence.**
  - Keep your helmet, jacket, gloves, boots, and pants as they are. Don't wash, repair, or throw them away
  - Don't repair or sell the motorcycle until it has been inspected
  - Save any helmet-cam or dash-cam footage and ride-tracking (GPS) app data
- [ ] **Talk to a personal injury attorney who handles motorcycle cases.** Insurers often try to blame riders. A motorcycle accident attorney can push back with evidence and protect the value of your claim.
- [ ] **Notify your own insurance company.** Motorcycle PIP, Medical Payments, and Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist coverage may help with early bills.
- [ ] **Start a file** for medical bills, gear and repair estimates, receipts, and missed work.

Do not give a recorded statement to the other driver's insurance company before you speak with a personal injury attorney. Avoid posting photos of riding or the crash on social media.

4

WEEK ONE AND BEYOND

The First Week and After

- [ ] **Get a copy of the crash report** from the investigating agency or the TxDOT Crash Report Online Purchase System, usually within about 7–10 days.
- [ ] **Know how fault works in Texas.** Your recovery can be reduced by your share of fault, and you can't recover if you are found more than 50% at fault. That is why early evidence matters so much.
- [ ] **Not wearing a helmet doesn't automatically end your claim.** Texas allows riders 21 and older to ride without one in certain cases, but insurers may still argue it made injuries worse. Discuss it with your attorney.
- [ ] **Know your deadline.** Most Texas personal injury lawsuits must be filed within **two years** of the crash.

Injured on your motorcycle? Talk to a Dallas motorcycle accident attorney.

Call **(214) 321-8225** (phones monitored 24/7) for a free consultation, or visit **RCSLawFirm.com**. Robert C. Slim has helped injured Texans in Dallas–Fort Worth since 1994.

PRINT AND KEEP IN YOUR VEHICLE

Accident Information Form

Fill in what you can at the scene. Photos of licenses, insurance cards, and plates capture most of this quickly.

ACCIDENT DETAILS

Date	Time	Location / nearest intersection
Police agency	Officer name & badge #	Crash report #
Weather / road conditions	Tow company & where vehicle was taken	

RIDER (YOUR INFORMATION)

Driver name			Date of birth
Address	City	State	ZIP
Phone	Email		
Driver's license #	State	Owner (if not driver)	
Insurance company	Policy #	Insurance phone	
Motorcycle year	Make	Model	Color	License plate / state

SAFETY GEAR WORN AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH

- ☐ Helmet
- ☐ Eye protection
- ☐ Riding jacket
- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Riding pants
- ☐ Boots
- ☐ Helmet camera
- ☐ Hi-vis gear

OTHER DRIVER

Driver name			Date of birth
Address	City	State	ZIP
Phone	Email		
Driver's license #	State	Owner (if not driver)	
Insurance company	Policy #	Insurance phone	
Vehicle year	Make	Model	Color	License plate / state

PASSENGERS & INJURIES

Name	Vehicle	Injury / complaint
Ambulance / hospital / urgent care		Date seen

ROAD HAZARDS NOTICED

Gravel, potholes, debris, construction, lighting, signage

WITNESS 1

Name	Phone	Email	
Address	City	State	ZIP
What they saw			

WITNESS 2

Name	Phone	Email	
Address	City	State	ZIP
What they saw			

NOTES / DIAGRAM OF THE CRASH

Provided courtesy of Robert C. Slim Law Firm, PLLC

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This checklist provides general information about Texas law and is not legal advice. Reading it does not create an attorney-client relationship. Every case is different; contact a personal injury attorney about your specific situation. Attorney responsible for content: Robert C. Slim, Dallas, Texas.