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Georgia Car Accident Evidence Checklist

Capture the evidence your claim depends on, before it disappears.

If you were just in a crash, take a breath. This list will help! Work through it in order, check off what you have done, and skip anything that does not apply. Nothing on this page requires you to hire a lawyer, but every item on it will make your claim stronger if you do.

A Georgia insurance claim is decided on evidence, but most of that evidence exists only in the first hours and days after the crash. This checklist is about capturing it before it disappears.

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01 At the Scene

- [ ] **Check for injuries and call 911.** Georgia law requires you to report a crash involving injury, death, or $500 or more in property damage (O.C.G.A. § 40-6-273). Ask for police even if the other driver says it is not necessary.
- [ ] **Do not move the cars unless they are blocking traffic or unsafe.** If you must move them, take photos of the original positions first.
- [ ] **Photograph everything before anything changes.** All four sides of every vehicle, close-ups of damage, the road, skid marks, debris, traffic signs and signals, weather, and the other driver's license plate. Take more than you think you need.
- [ ] **Take a short video walking around the scene.** Narrate what you see, including the time and location.
- [ ] **Get the other driver's information.** Photograph their driver's license, insurance card, and registration. Write down their name, phone number, and the name of the vehicle owner if it is not the driver.
- [ ] **Get witness names and phone numbers.** Witnesses leave quickly, and police often do not record them. A 30-second phone video of a witness saying what they saw is valuable.
- [ ] **Ask the officer for the report number and which agency is handling the crash.**
- [ ] **Note nearby cameras.** Businesses, doorbells, and traffic cameras record over footage. Write down what you see so it can be requested quickly.
- [ ] **Say as little as possible about fault.** Be polite, give the officer the facts, and do not apologize or say "I'm fine." Shock very frequently hides injuries.

02 Within 24 to 48 Hours

- [ ] **See a doctor, even if you feel okay.** Go to the ER, urgent care, or your own doctor. Adrenaline masks injuries, and a gap between the crash and your first visit is the first thing an adjuster uses to cut your claim.
- [ ] **Tell the doctor about every symptom, including the ones that seem minor.**
- [ ] **Report the crash to your own insurance company.** Your policy requires prompt notice. Give the basic facts: date, location, and the other driver's information. You do not have to give a recorded statement to your own company that day, and you should not give one to the other driver's company at all until you have spoken with a lawyer.
- [ ] **Get the police report.** In Georgia, most reports are available within a few business days through BuyCrash.com or from the agency that responded. Read it for errors and note anything that is wrong.
- [ ] **Photograph your injuries every few days as bruising and swelling change.**
- [ ] **Keep the car as it is until it has been inspected and photographed.** Do not authorize repairs or let it be scrapped until someone has documented the damage.
- [ ] **Save your dashcam footage and ask any passengers to save theirs.**
- [ ] **Ask your employer for a written note confirming any days you missed.**

03 Things not to do

PROTECT YOUR CLAIM

- ✕ **Do not give a recorded statement to the other driver's insurance company.** They will call within days, sound friendly, and ask to "get your side." You are not required to talk to them. Say you will have someone contact them and hang up.
- ✕ **Do not sign anything from an insurance company without reading it with someone you trust.** A medical authorization form usually lets them pull your entire medical history, not just the crash records. A release ends your claim permanently, even if you find out later you were hurt worse than you thought.
- ✕ **Do not accept a quick check.** An early offer is almost always made before anyone knows what your injuries will cost.
- ✕ **Do not post about the crash on social media.** Not the photos, not "I'm okay," not the vacation you took two weeks later.
- ✕ **Do not skip or delay treatment.** Missed appointments and long gaps are read as "not really hurt." If you cannot afford care, tell your lawyer; there are options.
- ✕ **Do not exaggerate.** Your credibility is the most valuable thing in your case. Tell the doctor and your lawyer exactly what hurts and exactly what you can and cannot do.
- ✕ **Do not wait.** In Georgia you generally have two years from the crash to file a lawsuit for injuries (O.C.G.A. § 9-3-33). Some claims, such as those against a city or county, require written notice much sooner.

04 START A CRASH FILE

Use one folder, paper or on your phone, and put everything in it. Your claim is worth what you can prove.

CATEGORY	WHAT TO KEEP
Crash	Police report, photos, videos, witness contacts, your written account
Other driver	License, insurance card, registration, claim number, adjuster name and phone
Medical	Discharge papers, every bill and statement, prescriptions, referrals, appointment dates
Work	Pay stubs from before and after, employer note, dates missed, any lost overtime or bonus
Vehicle	Repair estimates, total-loss paperwork, rental receipts, tow bill, photos of damage
Expenses	Mileage to appointments, medication, medical devices, help you paid for at home
Daily impact	A short diary: pain level, sleep, what you could not do that day

> *Save every voicemail and letter from any insurance company. Do not throw anything away, even if it seems unimportant.*

05

When to call a lawyer

Call before you talk to the other driver's insurance company, and always if any of these are true:

→**Anyone was taken to the hospital or is still in pain a week later**

→**The other driver was uninsured, underinsured, driving for work, or driving for Uber or Lyft**

→**The police report puts fault on you and you disagree**

→**An adjuster is pressuring you to give a statement, sign a form, or accept a check**

→**You are not sure whether to use your health insurance or how the medical bills will be paid**

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Your consultation is free.

There is no fee on an injury case unless we recover money for you. Call us before you talk to the other driver's insurance company.

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