

State Law Accident Reporting

Sources (unless listed different): <http://www.dmv.org/accident-guide/>

Alabama

Alabama requires you to file an SR-31 form with the Driver License Division of the Department of Public Safety after any accident you're in that involves a certain dollar amount worth of damages or results in a death or personal injury and the at-fault driver is uninsured.

Submit the SR-31 form by mail to:

Department of Public Safety
Safety Responsibility Unit
P.O. Box 1471
Montgomery, AL 36102

Alaska

1. In the event of any accident, you are required to complete an Alaska Motor Vehicle Crash Form and mail it to the address below within ten days of the accident.

DMV Main Office

P.O. Box 110221

Juneau, AK 99811-0221 (907) 465-4361

Complete and submit a Certificate of Insurance if the damages to any property exceed \$500. The completed form should be mailed to:

State Of Alaska

Division of Motor Vehicles

Attn: Driver Licensing

Po Box 110221

Juneau AK 99811-0221.

Arizona

If you are involved in an accident in Arizona, you are required to provide certain information to the other parties involved. Likewise, fellow motorists, passengers or pedestrians involved in the accident must share similar information with you. Also, it is often wise to ask for the information of witnesses to the accident just in case you need to have them testify at a later date. The key information to exchange in the aftermath of an accident includes:

1. Name, address and contact details
2. Driver license number
3. License plate number of the vehicles involved
4. Auto insurance information for the motorists involved.

If you hit an unattended vehicle, you must make an effort to find the owner or driver, and follow these same procedures. If you are unable to locate the owner of an unattended vehicle, you are required to leave a note indicating your name and contact information, and a brief description of the accident.

Arkansas

In Arkansas, a driver must report any car accident where:

- a vehicle that was involved in the accident, or some other kind of property, incurred damage in an amount in excess of \$1,000, or
- a driver, passenger, or pedestrian suffered bodily injury or death.

The driver must report the accident to the Arkansas Office of Driver Services within 30 days of the incident.

California

An accident must be reported to the DMV within 10 days when someone is killed, injured, or property damage exceeds \$750.

To report an accident to the DMV you, your insurance agent, or legal representative must complete the Report of Traffic Accident Occurring in California (Form SR-1).

You must also submit an SR-1 in addition to other filings the insurance companies, police, and other administrative agencies require. In order to fill out the SR-1 you need to gather important information at the scene of the accident:

- Place and time of accident.
- Other driver's name, address, and date of birth.
- Other driver's driver license information(#/State).
- Other driver's license plate number and state.
- Other driver's insurance company, policy number, and the expiration thereof.
- Policy holder's name and address.
- Vehicle owner's name and address.
- Explanation of injuries or property damage.

The DMV SR1 is also required regardless of whether the accident occurred on private property or was caused by someone else.

Failure to file a necessary Report of Traffic Accident Occurring in California (Form SR-1) or failure to show proof of financial responsibility may result in the suspension of your license.

Unless the officer finds the other driver at fault, any accident the police report to the DMV will go on your driving record.

Colorado

Colorado law requires all accidents to be reported immediately. If a police officer responds to the scene and gets all information from the involved parties, the police report satisfies your responsibility.

However, if a police officer isn't involved, you will have to report the accident either using an online accident report or download a traffic accident report.

Note that Colorado's online accident reporting system has a few requirements. To report online, each of the following must be true:

- There were no fatalities or injuries involved.
- The accident was not a hit and run (you can provide information from the other party involved).
- No public property was damaged.
- There was no suspicion of any party driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

If any of the above statements are true, you should contact the law enforcement department in charge of the jurisdiction where your accident happened. They will provide further instructions to start an investigation.

Connecticut

State law requires you to pull over and stop when you are involved in an accident. If you don't stop, you face the risk of being charged with a "hit and run" accident.

Make sure your vehicle is off the road, if you can operate it. Police need to be notified right away when there is injury, death, or property damage. There is no threshold in estimated property damage for reporting an accident.

Delaware:

In Delaware, the driver of any vehicle involved in the following types of accidents must report the crash:

- when the collision results in injury or death to any person
- when the collision occurs on a public highway and results in property damage to an apparent extent of \$500 or more, or
- when it appears that the collision involved a driver whose physical ability is impaired as a result of the use of alcohol and/or drugs. (Learn more about car accidents involving alcohol.)

The driver must give notice of the accident "immediately," but not until after the driver has stopped at the scene of the accident, given his/her name, address, and registration number to the other driver, and offered first aid to the other driver, including making arrangements for transporting the other driver to a hospital if that is necessary.

Florida

Accidents involving an injury or death, a hit-and-run or intoxicated driver, or property damage that appears to be over \$500 need to be reported immediately to law enforcement. The investigating officer will make a written report on all accidents involving a death or injury.

If an officer completes a report, you won't need to file a crash report (HTML version or PDF version.) However, if a crash report hasn't been filed by law enforcement, then you'll need to do so within 10 days of the accident.

Georgia

The Georgia Driver's Manual provides a detailed list of actions you should take if you are involved in an accident. The manual advises that you:

- Stop and pull over in a safe place.
- Report the accident immediately to local law enforcement if anyone is killed, if there is an injury, or if there is property damage greater than \$500.
- Provide assistance to those injured, if possible.
- Activate your vehicle's hazard lights to alert approaching motorists.
- Provide your name, address, license plate number, driver's license number, and insurance information to the other parties involved in the accident, and get the same information from them. You can do this while waiting for law enforcement to arrive on the scene.

Hawaii

You are not required to report any accidents to the Hawaii Department of Motor Vehicles. But if you are involved in an accident that involves loss of life, injury or property damage exceeding \$3000, you are required to notify the nearest law enforcement agency immediately.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Notify your auto insurance company if you are involved in an accident.
- See also Auto Accident Injuries.
- In the event that you are injured in an auto accident, consider contacting a personal injury attorney. Retain copies of any medical expenses incurred as a result of an accident.
- See also Driving Record and Driving School.
- Add new comment

Idaho

Any accident where someone is injured must be reported to authorities. In addition, any accident where the property damage exceeds \$1,500 must also be reported.

These accidents must be reported by the quickest means of communication to the local police department in cities, otherwise to the county sheriff or nearest state police offices.

Illinois

1. In addition to reporting an accident to the local police, you are also required to report certain types of accidents to the Illinois Department of Transportation. You are required to complete and submit a Motorist Crash Report within 10 days of an accident, if any of the following apply:
2. The accident resulted in death or injury;

3. The accident resulted in damage to property in excess of \$500;
4. In most cases the police officer at the site of the incident will provide you with a copy of the Motorist Crash Report form. He or she will also complete part of the form for you. However, in case no police officer is available at the accident site, or you have lost your copy of the form, you will first have to call the police department and ask for the bar code number of the original Police Report. Once you have this number, you can request a blank copy of the form from the Illinois DOT by calling (217) 782-2575.
5. If you fail to report an accident that meets the reporting requirements to the Illinois DOT, you may be liable to a fine of \$2,500 or imprisonment up to one year. In the event that another driver offers to pay for damages and asks you not to report an accident, you are still required to file the report in any of the situations outlined above.
6. Your report must include detailed and current information regarding your insurance coverage. The DMV will cross-check this information with the insurance company shown on the report. If you did not have liability insurance when the accident occurred, you may be subject to further penalties under the Safety Responsibility law.
7. You must ensure that the information filled in the Motorist Crash Report form is as accurate as possible. Deliberately filling in false information can result in a \$500 fine and jail sentence of 30 days.
8. Make a copy of the accident report form for your personal records. You can deliver the original to your local Illinois DOT office or mail it directly to:

Illinois Department of Transportation

Accident Records Section

3215 Executive Park Drive

Springfield, Illinois 62766-0001

Indiana

1. In some situations, you must report an accident to the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles. You are required to complete and submit an Operator's Proof of Insurance and Crash Report Form within 10 days of an accident, if any of the following apply:
2. The accident resulted in death or injury
3. The accident resulted in property damage amounting to \$1000 or more
4. If you fail to report an accident to the Indiana BMV, you may have your license suspended or your registration revoked. In the event that another driver offers to pay for damages and asks you not to report an accident, you are still required to file the report in any of the situations outlined above.
5. Detailed and current information regarding your insurance coverage must be filled in by your insurance agent. If you did not have liability insurance when the accident occurred, your driving privileges may be suspended for up to one year. For more information regarding insurance requirements click [here](#). Make a copy of the accident report form for your personal records. You can deliver the original to your local Indiana BMV office or mail it directly to:

Bureau of Motor Vehicles

PFR/Crash Report Section

P.O. Box 7169

Indianapolis, IN 46207

Iowa

According to the Iowa Department of Transportation, drivers are required to file a written report within 72 hours of a motor vehicle accident resulting in bodily injury or property damage of over \$1,500. These forms are available from local law enforcement officers.

If the law enforcement officer who investigates the accident files a report, however, you do not need to submit your own documentation of the accident.

Kansas

Kansas has a limited car accident reporting law. In Kansas, the driver of a vehicle involved in an accident does not have to report the accident if a police officer came to the accident scene.

If a police officer did not come to the accident scene, the driver must report the accident if:

- the accident caused apparent property damage of \$1,000 or more,
- any person involved in the accident is injured or killed; or
- the driver(s) or passenger(s) of any other vehicles involved in the accident are either not present or are not physically capable of receiving the first driver's name and other contact information.

The driver must report the accident to the nearest office of a "duly authorized police authority" in the state. That includes the Kansas Highway Patrol, a county sheriff's office, or a local police department.

Kentucky

The KSP provides an accident report online that you can download and print out. While it's not necessary to keep one handy in your glove box, you should make sure to record all crucial information so you can fill it in later. Not only will you need this information for your report, but you'll also need it for your car insurance company.

Necessary Information for the Report

You will need to record this information as it pertains to you and the other involved party:

- Contact information, including the name, address, and telephone number of all people involved (this includes passengers).

- Driver's license number and birth date of all drivers involved.
- Make, model, and year of the vehicles involved.
- Registration and license plate number for all involved vehicles, as well as the state in which the vehicle is registered.
- Vehicle damage and estimated repair costs.
- Contact information for the automobile insurance company for each driver.
- Any property damage not part of the vehicle.

The KSP accident report also asks for very detailed information regarding the location of the accident, the type of weather and road conditions at the time, and traffic control (stop signs, traffic lights, etc.).

Mail the report to:

Kentucky State Police
Records Branch
1250 Louisville Road
Frankfort, KY 40601

Louisiana

In Louisiana, drivers must report any vehicle accident that:

- results in injury to or death of any person, or
- results in property damage in excess of \$500.

The driver must report the accident to the local police department if the accident occurred within an incorporated city or town.

If the accident occurred outside of an incorporated city or town, the driver must report the accident to the nearest sheriff's office or state police station.

Maine

Assuming it qualifies as "reportable", a car accident in Maine must be reported immediately -- by the quickest means of communication -- to any one of the following public officials or offices:

- a state police officer
- the nearest state police field office
- the sheriff's office or a deputy sheriff within the county in which the accident occurred, or
- the police department, or to a police officer of the municipality in which the accident occurred.

Maryland

1. Any accidents that result in death or injury must be reported to the Maryland Vehicle Administration, provided that a police report has not been filed. Such accidents have to be reported in writing within 15 days.
2. If you fail to report such an accident to the Maryland MVA, you may have your license suspended. In the event that another driver offers to pay for damages and asks you not to report an accident, you are still required to file the report in any of the situations outlined above.
3. Any law enforcement officers at the scene of the accident have the right to ask for valid proof of insurance. If you do not have liability insurance and you are involved in an accident, your driving privileges may be suspended. If you are required to file a report with the Maryland Vehicle Administration, you should contact your nearest MVA Office for further information.

Massachusetts

1. In some situations, you must report an accident to the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles. You are required to complete and submit a Motor Vehicle Crash Operator Report within 5 days of an accident, if any of the following apply:
2. The accident caused injury or death.
3. Damage to any one person's property or vehicle as a result of the accident exceeded \$1,000.
4. This reporting must be carried out regardless of whether a police report has been filed. If you fail to report an accident to the Massachusetts RMV, you may have your license suspended. In the event that another driver offers to pay for damages and asks you not to report an accident, you are still required to file the report in any of the situations outlined above.
5. Your report must include detailed and current information regarding your insurance coverage. The RMV will cross-check this information with the insurance company shown on the report. If you did not have liability insurance when the accident occurred, your driving privileges may be suspended.
6. A copy of the completed form must be sent to your insurance company, the local police department of the city or town where the accident occurred and to the Registry of Motor Vehicles. You can mail a copy to the RMV at the following address:

Crash Records

Registry of Motor Vehicles

P.O. Box 55889

Boston, MA 02205-5889

Michigan

You are not required to report any accidents to the Michigan Department of State.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Notify your auto insurance company if you are involved in an accident.

- See also Auto Accident Injuries.
- In the event that you are injured in an auto accident, consider contacting a personal injury attorney. Retain copies of any medical expenses incurred as a result of an accident.
- See also Driving Record and Driving School.

Minnesota

1. In some situations, you must report an accident to the Minnesota Department of Safety. You are required to complete and submit a Motor Vehicle Accident Report within 10 days of an accident, if any of the following apply:
2. The accident caused injury or death.
3. The accident caused total property damage of \$1,000 or more.
4. If you fail to report an accident to the Minnesota Department of Safety, you may have your license suspended. In the event that another driver offers to pay for damages and asks you not to report an accident, you are still required to file the report in any of the situations outlined above.
5. Your report must include detailed and current information regarding your insurance coverage. The Department of Safety will cross-check this information with the insurance company shown on the report. If you did not have liability insurance when the accident occurred, your driving privileges may be suspended. You can fill out the Motor Vehicle Accident Report road test appointment or download a copy of the form and mail the completed report to the address given below.

DVS / Accident Records

445 Minnesota Street, Suite 181

St. Paul, MN 55101-5181

Mississippi

You are not required to report any accidents to the Mississippi Department of Public Safety.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Notify your auto insurance company if you are involved in an accident.
- See also Auto Accident Injuries.
- In the event that you are injured in an auto accident, consider contacting a personal injury attorney. Retain copies of any medical expenses incurred as a result of an accident.
- See also Driving Record and Driving School.

Missouri

For most accidents, you won't have to file an accident report. Instead, you'll just contact your insurance company. However, there are certain occasions where you will have to file an accident report with the DMV yourself. If all of the following are true, you should download a copy of a Missouri Accident Report:

- It has been less than one year since the accident.
- The accident was in Missouri.
- Someone in the accident did not have liability insurance.
- If more than \$500 of damage occurred or there was personal injury or death.

Montana

If the accident occurs in a municipality, you must report the accident to the local police if anyone is injured or killed, or the property damage exceeds \$500. If it occurs outside of a municipality you must contact the Montana Highway Patrol if anyone is killed or injured, or the property damage exceeds \$1,000. This report must be filed within 10 days of the accident. If you are injured from the mishap, you're allowed to have someone else file it for you.

Nebraska

The information you gather from the other involved parties will come in handy when you're completing the Driver's Motor Vehicle Accident Report (Form DR-41).

If the accident causes more than \$1,000 in damages to the vehicle(s) or some other personal property, or if the accident causes physical injuries or death, you must report it.

If you don't complete the form and report the accident, you're committing a misdemeanor and risking driver license revoked.

Nevada

If the accident involved more than \$750 worth of damage to one person or a person's property, or the accident resulted in death or injury to anyone, you will need to file a Report of Traffic Accident (SR-1) within 10 days.

Requirements:

The form requires certain information, and will not be accepted without it, so if you have an accident make sure to exchange complete information with all parties involved.

Get the names, addresses, and driver's license information from all drivers, along with insurance information and complete vehicle details, such as make, model, year, and tag number. This form also asks for the Social Security number of all involved parties so be sure to get that, too.

Write down the weather and road conditions and record the time and exact location of the accident.

You'll need to attach a copy of your insurance card and any doctor's statements if an injury was involved.

New Hampshire

If damages exceed \$1,000 or if someone was injured or killed you must file a New Hampshire Motor Vehicle Accident Report (Form DSMV 400) with the Division of Motor Vehicles in Concord within 15 days of the accident. Don't test this mandate. Failure to report when a death or injury is involved is considered a felony.

If another person is involved in an accident while driving your vehicle that person is responsible, not you, for filing an accident report.

New Jersey

Accidents happen. When one happens to you, New Jersey requires that you report it if it involves injury, death, or over \$500 worth of damage to vehicles or property.

If law enforcement is not called to the accident scene and property damage was the only result, you'll need to send a letter to your local Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) Agency within 10 days of the accident, stating the circumstances and providing as much information as possible.

You'll also need to notify your insurance agent.

New Mexico

In New Mexico, any driver involved in an accident must report the crash if it:

- results in bodily injury to or death of any person, or
- results in property damage to an apparent extent of \$500.

The driver must report the accident to the police department, if the accident occurs within a municipality. If the accident did not occur within a municipality, the driver must report the accident to the office of the county sheriff or the nearest office of the New Mexico State Police.

The driver must report the accident "immediately, by the quickest means of communication." Although the law does not specify that that means, your best bet is to report it by cell phone (your own or a borrowed cell phone). If you cannot report the accident by cell phone, then the next quickest means of communication would be by pay phone, if one is nearby. If there are no pay phones in the vicinity, drive to the sheriff's department or highway patrol to report the accident in person if your vehicle is operable. Finally, if your vehicle is not working, then you should report the accident by phone when you get home.

New York

If the damage is \$1,000 or more, all involved drivers must file an Report of Motor Vehicle Accident (Form MV-104) within 10 days of the mishap. Don't treat this lightly. Failure to file within 10 days can lead to a suspended license.

If a person is killed or injured, contact the police immediately. Don't leave the scene before the police arrive or there will be a warrant issued for your arrest. You must file a police report and remain at the scene until the police give you the OK to leave.

If you need a copy of the accident report you can either contact the police department that presided over the incident, or submit to the DMV a police report request (Form MV-198C).

North Carolina

Make an immediate report to the police if anyone is killed or injured, or if the total damage to cars and personal property tops \$1,000. Failure to report the accident could balloon into legal hassles and result in a suspended license.

North Dakota

If you're involved in a crash that causes human injury or death, or totals \$1,000 or more in damages you must immediately contact local law enforcement. If the crash occurred within a municipality call the local police. If it happened outside of a city either dial the Highway Patrol or the County Sheriff's Office.

Ohio

- If you're driving a vehicle and are in an accident, you're required to stop your vehicle at once. You'll need to provide your name, address, and vehicle registration number to all the parties involved in the accident.
- Additionally, if you're not the owner of the vehicle, you'll need to give the owner's name, too.
- If it appears that no one has been hurt, you don't have to call the police. Be aware that police officers do not have to respond to calls concerning accidents that don't involve an injury.
- If an injury has occurred, however, and is serious enough that the injured cannot either understand or write down the information you've given them, you must stay with the victim until the police arrive. (Unless, of course, you've also been injured, and are being removed from the accident scene in an emergency vehicle.)
- Should an injury occur, or if there was at least \$400 in property damage, and if the driver or owner of one of the vehicles in the accident doesn't have auto insurance or acceptable financial responsibility coverage, you'll need to file a crash report with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).

- Keep in mind you'll need to do so within six months of the accident date.

Oklahoma

But if you are involved in a wreck that law enforcement does not work, you're required to submit a report to the Department of Public Safety if injury, death, or property damage over \$300 occurs as a result of the accident.

Oregon

- There are certain situations where state law requires you to report an accident to the DMV. If your accident meets any of the following conditions, you must complete an Oregon Traffic Accident and Insurance Report:
 - More than \$1,500 of damage to your vehicle.
 - More than \$1,500 of damage to any vehicle involved in the accident and towing is required to remove a vehicle from the accident.
 - More than \$1,500 of damage to any person's property (not a vehicle).
 - Injury or death because of the accident.

Pennsylvania

- Accidents happen. If you're involved in an accident, pull reports will need to be completed for a variety of reasons, including insurance claims and driving records. If law enforcement does not work the accident, you'll need to complete a report when the accident:
 - Causes injury or death to any person
 - Does enough damage to a vehicle that it can't be driven away from the scene and requires towing

Every driver involved in the accident must complete Form AA-600 within 5 days of the accident. If more than two vehicles are involved, use additional copies of the report as needed. Send the completed report to:

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Bureau of Highway Safety and Traffic Engineering

P.O. Box 2047

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2047

Rhode Island

If someone is injured or the accident caused more than \$1,000 of damage, a report must be made with the DMV within 21 days.

South Carolina

If the police weren't involved but the wreck caused damages greater than \$1,000 or resulted in injury or death to anyone, the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles requires all drivers to submit a completed and accurate Traffic Collision Report, Form FR-309.

Submit the form within 15 days of the accident by mail to:

S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles

FR 309/FR-21

Financial Responsibility

P.O. Box 1498

Blythewood, SC 29016

Tennessee

The Tennessee Department of Safety classifies certain accidents as "reportable." This means anyone involved in these kinds of accidents must report them to the DOS.

Such reportable accidents include those that involve personal injury, death, and property damage that exceeds \$400. You can pick up an accident report form from the law enforcement agency or your local Highway Patrol office. You can also find a report form online.

Note that if you don't report the accident within the allotted amount of time, your driver's license may be suspended.

Texas

Texas law requires that a Crash Report, Form CR-2, be filed when an accident occurs that results in injury or death, or when damage to property or vehicles is more than \$1,000. If law enforcement does not come to the accident scene or complete a report.

Utah

Accidents involving injury, death, or property damage of over \$1,500 mean that you must contact law enforcement as soon as possible. If you're unable to do so, but you have a passenger who is capable of completing this duty, then it's up to the passenger to contact law enforcement.

Vermont

If the accident involves injury, death, or damage exceeding \$3,000 you must submit a Crash Report (Form TA-VA-04 (d)) to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) within 72 hours of the mishap. This also applies to you if your car was the only vehicle involved and you were injured or your vehicle was damaged.

Virginia

Contact the police as fast as possible. Police are required to file crash reports with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) if the accident involves death, injury or total property damage exceeding \$1,500. All police-reported information will appear on the driving records of each driver involved.

Washington

If law enforcement investigates your accident, you are not required to file a collision report. Otherwise, you **MUST** file a report within four days of the accident. Get a blank accident report from your local police department, sheriff's office, or the Washington State Patrol.

The Division of Licensing (DOL) will add a collision report to your driving record only if the accident involved injury or topped the \$700 mark in damages.

No fault or cause of accident will be listed to your record. Instead the DOL will add: date of accident, number of vehicles involved and whether they were moving or parked or had occupants, and whether any injuries or deaths resulted from the accident.

West Virginia

If you're involved in a motor vehicle accident in which anyone is injured or killed, or there is at least \$500 worth of property damage.

If the accident happens within a municipality, report it to the local police.

If the accident happens outside a municipality, report it to the county sheriff's office or the nearest West Virginia State Police Detachment.

Note that even though you have five days to report the accident, it's best to call law enforcement as soon as the accident occurs.

Wisconsin

Accidents involving an injury, \$1000 or more of property damage to any single property, or \$200 or more of damage to government property (other than a motor vehicle) mean that you must contact police right away.

An investigating officer will file an accident report for you. However, if a law enforcement officer is unable to complete the report, you'll need to fill out the Driver Report of Accident.

Send the completed form to:

Department of Transportation

P.O. Box 7919

Madison, WI 53707-7919

Supplemental reports may be required by law enforcement if more information is needed.

Once a report is filed, all drivers listed on the report will have the accident noted on their driving record, no matter who was at fault.

Wyoming

If injury occurs to anyone involved in the accident, including you, or if there's over \$1,000 worth of damage you must file an accident report. Guilt or innocence has no bearing. You must file. And don't make the mistake of believing since you provided information to police officers at the scene of the crash that this substitutes as an accident report. Again, you must complete and submit the state's official accident report.

Sources (unless listed different): <http://www.dmv.org/accident-guide/>

