

## TAKING ACTION AS SOON AS YOU ARE HURT

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We can't stress the importance of taking immediate action to protect your rights as soon as an injury occurs. This is true even if you believe that your injuries were caused by the negligence of someone else. A case may be lost, or seriously harmed, before you even hire an attorney because of the failure to take photographs, get medical treatment or interview witnesses.

Although these steps can overlap depending on the matter there are certain things you should do in every case. During these series of reports we will be guiding you through the process of what you should do if you are involved in an accident.

### Keep Records

The more details you have about the injury and your damages the better prepared you will be for trial. Start keeping records even before you see an attorney. It is important that you document, whether by diary, journal or other writing, the following:

- ➡ All your doctor visits including reasons for the visit and the doctor's diagnosis
- ➡ Any days missed from work and the reasons for your absence
- ➡ Any pain or suffering you have on a particular day
- ➡ Conversations with anyone concerning your injuries and/or the accident
- ➡ Anything you can remember about the accident.

After you have made a copy of these items turn the original over to your attorney as soon as possible.

### Get Medical Care

Although it might seem unusual, many injured parties are less than diligent about getting medical treatment. Even worse, when they do get the requisite care they do not follow-through with the doctor's recommendations for prescriptions and rehabilitation. Further, victims also do not see the need to get psychiatric care or grief counseling. People don't want others to see them as whiners or sick.

If you need medical attention it is vital you get it. If you are having difficulty paying for it there may be things you lawyer can do to help. Lapses in medical care, failure to follow-up on rehabilitation, not taking the proper prescription medications and not getting professional counseling makes it appear that your injuries are not that severe which can have a negative impact on your personal injury case.

### **Photographs**

It is also extremely important that you take pictures of the scene of your accident. By the same token if you have visible signs of injury you should take pictures of that as well. Sometimes it is difficult for a jury to fully appreciate your injuries after they have healed. Pictures allow the jury and insurance company to fully understand your pain.

The Law Office of Harold D. Thompson handles all types of personal injury and real estate lawsuits every day and we fully understand the process of successfully handling your case. We are also aware of the pitfalls that arise in the course of litigation as well as the steps necessary to deal with them effectively.

If you believe you have been injured by the lack of care of another give our office a call at 619.615.0767 or visit our website at [www.ThompsonLawSD.com](http://www.ThompsonLawSD.com) for more information.