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What to Do Immediately After a Workplace Accident

By Pothitakis Law Firm



Workplace accidents can happen suddenly, leaving employees shocked and unsure of what steps to take next. Acting quickly and following the proper procedures is crucial to protect your health, rights, and potential compensation. Knowing what to do immediately after a workplace accident can help ensure you receive the support you need.

1. **Seek Medical Attention Right Away**

Your first priority after any workplace accident should be your health and safety. Even if you feel your injury is minor, it's important to get examined by a healthcare professional. Some injuries, like internal bleeding or concussions, may not present immediate symptoms but can become serious if untreated. Immediate medical attention not only protects your well-being but also provides documentation that will be critical for your workers' compensation or personal injury claim.

2. **Report the Accident to Your Employer**

Timely reporting of the accident is essential. Most states, including Florida, require that workplace injuries be reported promptly to your employer. Failing to report an accident can jeopardize your eligibility for workers' compensation benefits. Inform your supervisor or human resources department as soon as possible, and ensure that your report is documented in writing.

3. **Document the Incident Thoroughly**

Accurate documentation of the accident can significantly strengthen your case. Take detailed notes about what happened, including the date,

time, location, and circumstances surrounding the injury. If there were witnesses, record their names and contact information. Photographs of the accident scene and your injuries can also serve as important evidence for your claim.

4. **Preserve Evidence**

Preserving any evidence related to your accident is important. Keep any equipment, clothing, or other items involved in the incident. Avoid altering or discarding anything that could support your claim. Evidence preservation can play a crucial role if there is any dispute regarding how the accident occurred.

5. **Avoid Discussing the Incident on Social Media**

Posting about your workplace accident on social media can negatively affect your claim. Insurers and opposing parties often review social media activity for information that could reduce or deny benefits. Keep details about the accident, your injuries, and recovery private until your claim is resolved.

6. **Consult an Experienced Attorney**

Navigating a workplace injury claim can be complex. Insurance companies often attempt to minimize payouts, and deadlines can be strict. Consulting an experienced workers' compensation or personal injury attorney can ensure your rights are protected. An attorney can guide you through the claims process, handle communications with insurers, and help maximize your benefits.

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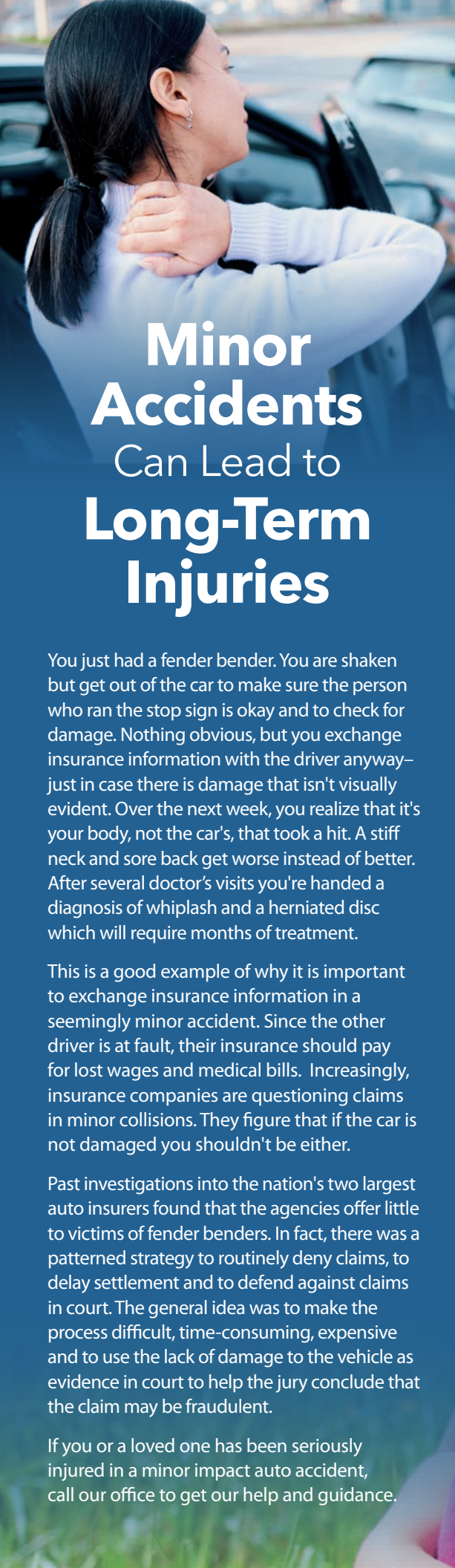
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Minor Accidents Can Lead to Long-Term Injuries

You just had a fender bender. You are shaken but get out of the car to make sure the person who ran the stop sign is okay and to check for damage. Nothing obvious, but you exchange insurance information with the driver anyway—just in case there is damage that isn't visually evident. Over the next week, you realize that it's your body, not the car's, that took a hit. A stiff neck and sore back get worse instead of better. After several doctor's visits you're handed a diagnosis of whiplash and a herniated disc which will require months of treatment.

This is a good example of why it is important to exchange insurance information in a seemingly minor accident. Since the other driver is at fault, their insurance should pay for lost wages and medical bills. Increasingly, insurance companies are questioning claims in minor collisions. They figure that if the car is not damaged you shouldn't be either.

Past investigations into the nation's two largest auto insurers found that the agencies offer little to victims of fender benders. In fact, there was a patterned strategy to routinely deny claims, to delay settlement and to defend against claims in court. The general idea was to make the process difficult, time-consuming, expensive and to use the lack of damage to the vehicle as evidence in court to help the jury conclude that the claim may be fraudulent.

If you or a loved one has been seriously injured in a minor impact auto accident, call our office to get our help and guidance.

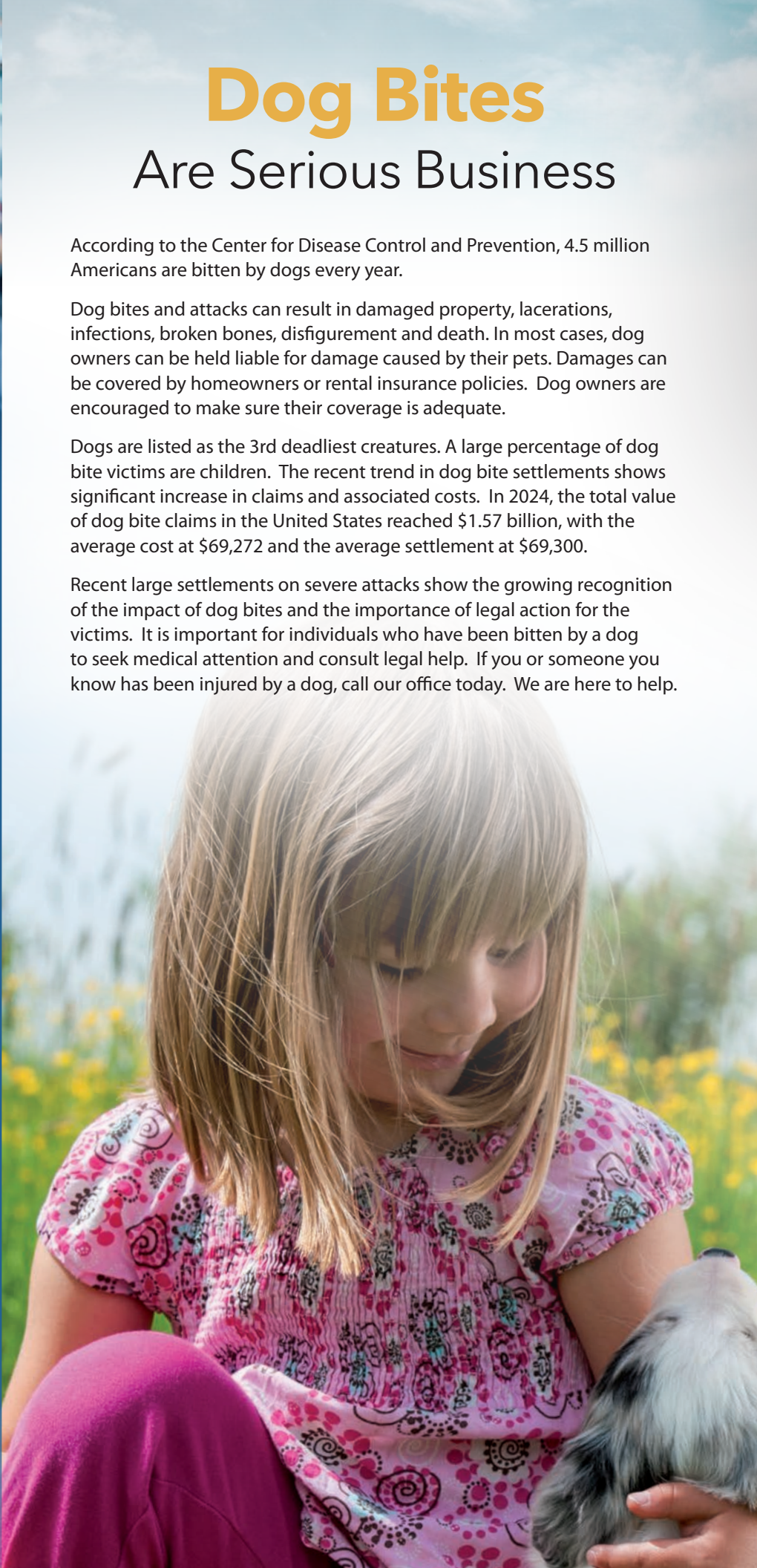
Dog Bites Are Serious Business

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 4.5 million Americans are bitten by dogs every year.

Dog bites and attacks can result in damaged property, lacerations, infections, broken bones, disfigurement and death. In most cases, dog owners can be held liable for damage caused by their pets. Damages can be covered by homeowners or rental insurance policies. Dog owners are encouraged to make sure their coverage is adequate.

Dogs are listed as the 3rd deadliest creatures. A large percentage of dog bite victims are children. The recent trend in dog bite settlements shows significant increase in claims and associated costs. In 2024, the total value of dog bite claims in the United States reached \$1.57 billion, with the average cost at \$69,272 and the average settlement at \$69,300.

Recent large settlements on severe attacks show the growing recognition of the impact of dog bites and the importance of legal action for the victims. It is important for individuals who have been bitten by a dog to seek medical attention and consult legal help. If you or someone you know has been injured by a dog, call our office today. We are here to help.



Common Mistakes to Avoid

After a Workplace Injury



Workplace injuries can happen unexpectedly, leaving employees unsure of what steps to take next. While some injuries are minor, others can have long-lasting effects on your health, career, and financial well-being. Understanding common mistakes to avoid after a workplace injury can help you protect your rights and ensure you receive the compensation you deserve.

1. **Failing to Report the Injury Immediately**

One of the most common mistakes injured workers make is delaying or failing to report their injury to their employer. In many states, including Florida, timely reporting is critical for a workers' compensation claim. Waiting too long can create complications, raise doubts about the legitimacy of the injury, and potentially result in a denial of benefits. Always notify your employer as soon as possible, even if you believe the injury is minor.

2. **Ignoring Medical Attention**

Another frequent mistake is neglecting to seek medical care right after an injury occurs. Some individuals assume their injuries are minor and will heal on their own. However, untreated injuries can worsen over time and affect your long-term recovery. Additionally, medical records serve as important evidence when filing a workers' compensation or personal injury claim. Promptly seeing a healthcare professional helps document the injury and support your claim.

3. **Failing to Document the Incident**

Documentation is key to a successful workplace injury claim. Many employees fail to record details about the accident, such as the time, location, witnesses,

and circumstances leading up to the injury. Without proper documentation, it may be difficult to prove what happened or how the injury occurred. Keeping thorough records, including photos of the scene and your injury, can significantly strengthen your case.

4. **Discussing the Case on Social Media**

Sharing details about your injury or your employer on social media can negatively impact your claim. Insurers and opposing parties often monitor social media activity to find information that could reduce or deny your benefits. Avoid posting anything related to your accident, injuries, or recovery process online until your claim is resolved.

5. **Settling Too Quickly**

Some injured workers accept the first settlement offer without fully understanding the long-term impact of their injury. Quick settlements may not account for future medical expenses, lost wages, or ongoing rehabilitation needs. It's important to carefully evaluate any offer and consult an experienced attorney before agreeing to a settlement.

6. **Not Consulting an Experienced Attorney**

Workplace injury claims can be complex, and insurance companies often aim to minimize payouts. Attempting to navigate the process alone can lead to mistakes that jeopardize your rights. Consulting a knowledgeable workers' compensation or personal injury attorney can provide guidance, ensure all deadlines are met, and help maximize your benefits.



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★★★★★ I highly recommend Pothitakis Law Firm.

"Niko and his staff worked diligently to get my case resolved. They were always in contact with me every step of the way. Making sure to inform me of any updates and changes along the way. Protecting me and my rights. I highly recommend Pothitakis Law Firm." – A.B.

★★★★★ Always prompt answering any questions that I had.

"I would highly recommend Pothitakis Law Firm for any of your Workers Comp claims. Niko and his staff are very knowledgeable and helpful with any questions you might have. Always prompt answering any questions that I had. And just friendly to deal with." – J.A.

★★★★★ Niko and his team are AMAZING!

"Treated me like I mattered, and sincerely concerned about my injury. Couldn't have asked for anyone more knowledgeable in Work Comp Law! Thanks to Janet also! Definitely would recommend this firm, if you have any concerns about your work injury! God bless." – S.S.

★★★★★ They were with me in every step of the way.

"Niko and his staff were amazing. They were with me in every step of the way. Don't think I could have found any better." – M.P.



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Thanks to all of you who have recommended our firm to your relatives, friends, and neighbors. We appreciate your vote of confidence and pledge to care for these "VIPs" as well as we care for you.

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Who's Liable for a Rear-End Collision?

Rear-end car accidents happen every day. Many people assume the driver in the back is automatically at fault. While that assumption is common, it's not always accurate. Fault in a rear-end collision depends on what actually caused the crash, not just the position of the vehicles.

Some situations where the rear driver may not be entirely at fault include:

- ▶ **Abrupt, Unnecessary Braking:** If the driver in front stops suddenly, without a clear reason, they may share responsibility.
- ▶ **Broken or Missing Brake Lights:** When brake lights aren't working, the rear driver may not have enough warning to stop safely.
- ▶ **Vehicles Reversing Unexpectedly:** If the front vehicle backs up into the car behind it, the fault may shift forward.

- ▶ **Unsafe Lane Changes:** A driver who cuts in too closely without leaving adequate space can create an unavoidable situation.
- ▶ **Chain-Reaction Accidents:** In multi-car collisions, liability can be apportioned among multiple drivers based on their actions.

Determining who is at fault comes down to the evidence. Photos from the scene, witness statements, police reports and even dashcam footage can all help clarify what happened.

The rear driver is often, but not always, at fault. Every accident has its own set of facts and those details matter. If you're involved in a rear-end collision, taking the time to understand what really happened can make a significant difference in how your claim is handled.

