

Do I Have to Report an Accident to the Police?

Chances are, you'll be in an accident someday. In fact, you're likely to be in several accidents during your life—3 to 4 accidents, if [insurance industry estimates](#) are to be believed.

And while those crashes are unlikely to be deadly (fatality rates per 100 million vehicle miles traveled [decreased by 2.5%](#) from 2016 to 2017), they will leave you wondering what to do afterward. Should you call 911? Should you call the police on a non-emergency line? When should you call a [car accident lawyer](#)?

The police will almost certainly respond to a crash if you call them, but making that phone call may not always be necessary. Most police departments lack the resources to respond to minor traffic incidents where there are no injuries and only minimal damage. If there is only minor property damage to the vehicle(s) involved, then you are probably okay exchanging contact and insurance information with the involved driver(s)—no need to call the police.

In any other case, and particularly when an unlicensed driver is involved or a hit and run has occurred, the [LAPD recommends](#) that you call the police and ask them to meet you at the scene of the accident. As a fact-based, unbiased, third-party review of your case, a police report can mean the difference between proving your case and having your claim denied.

If the police determine that an immediate response to your accident is not necessary, you should go to the nearest police station as soon as possible—preferably within 24 hours of your accident—to have an accident report filed. Without a police report, you **CANNOT** file an insurance claim for damages.

Even with a police report, an insurance claims adjuster may try to dispute the police report, or, worse still, try to place you at fault for the accident. If you've been injured in a motor vehicle accident that wasn't your fault and are having an issue with your claim following a car accident, a [personal injury lawyer](#) from **Wilshire Law Firm** can help resolve your case and get you the compensation you are entitled to.

To get started with your FREE case consultation, contact Wilshire Law Firm today by calling (800) 522-7274, or fill out our [online contact form](#).