

WHAT ARE DRIVERS' RESPONSIBILITIES WHEN A TRAFFIC CRASH OCCURS?

The Florida Driver's Handbook states the driver's responsibility after a traffic crash are:

1. **Stop.**

If you are in a crash while driving, you must stop. If anyone is hurt, you must get help. You must also be ready to give your name, address, and vehicle registration number; as well as show your drivers license to others involved in the crash.

2. **Report the crash.**

If the crash causes injury, death, or property damage of at least \$500, it must be reported. Call the local police, the Florida Highway Patrol, or the County Sheriff's Office. If the crash involves a charge of driving under the influence (DUI) or results in death, injury, or property damage to the extent a wrecker must tow a vehicle away, the officer will fill out a report.

If the crash is investigated by an officer, you, the driver need not make a written report. If property damage appears to be over \$500 and no report is written by an officer, you must make a written report of the crash to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles within 10 days.

3. **Move your car if it is blocking traffic.**

If your car is blocking the flow of traffic, you must move it. If you cannot move it yourself, you must get help or call a tow truck. This is true anytime your vehicle is blocking the flow of traffic whether it has been involved in a crash or not.

4. **Appear in court.**

If you are charged in a driving crash, you may have to go to court. The officer who comes to the scene of the crash will file charges against any driver who violated a traffic law. Anyone who is charged will have a chance to explain to the court what happened. The court will then decide what the penalty will be. Anyone who is not charged with violating the law may have to come to court as a witness.

A driver convicted of leaving the scene of a crash involving death or personal injury will have his or her license revoked. The driver is also subject to criminal penalties.

If while driving, you hit a vehicle with no one in it or if you damage any object that belongs to someone else, you must tell the owner. Give the owner your name, address, and tag number in person or in a note attached to the object that was hit.