

Sky Law Group — 48-Hour After-Crash Checklist (Orange County)

What to do in the first 48 hours after an Orange County accident — protect your case and your settlement.

Within the First Hour

- Call 911. Get a police or CHP report.
- Move to safety if possible. Do not stand in active lanes.
- Photograph everything: vehicles, license plates, intersection, road conditions, the other driver, witnesses.
- Get the other driver's name, license, insurance, and contact.
- Get contact info from 2+ witnesses.
- DO NOT apologize. DO NOT say 'I'm fine.' DO NOT admit fault.

Within 24 Hours

- Go to UCI Medical Center ER (Orange CA — only Level I trauma) or your nearest urgent care.
- Keep ALL medical paperwork.
- Photograph any visible injuries.
- Lock down your social media privacy (insurance investigators screenshot it).
- Save your damaged car — do not repair before photographing under the bumper.
- Call Sky Law Group (714) 300-2000 — free, 24/7, bilingual.

Within 48 Hours

- Write down every symptom (pain levels 1-10, headaches, dizziness, sleep changes).
- Notify your own insurance — basic facts only, no recorded statement.
- DO NOT give the at-fault driver's insurance a recorded statement.
- DO NOT sign a medical authorization form.
- DO NOT accept any 'quick check' offer.
- Keep a journal: missed work, missed events, sleep, emotional impact.

Red Flags — Call Sky Law Group Immediately

- Adjuster offered a check within 7 days
- Adjuster asked for a recorded statement
- Adjuster sent a 'medical authorization' or blanket release

- Symptoms appeared more than 24 hours after the crash
- You feel pressured to settle before treatment is complete
- The other driver may have been Uber/Lyft/DoorDash (you may have \$1M coverage)

Call (714) 300-2000 — Free, 24/7, Hablamos Español. No fee unless we win.

Sky Law Group — Orange County's bilingual personal injury law firm. No fee unless we win. Free consultations 24/7. This document is informational only and not legal advice. Consult a licensed attorney for advice on your specific situation. Generated 2026-06-01