

The Shopfront

YOUTH LEGAL CENTRE

Driving – Information for Young People

Fact Sheet 7 – Traffic Accidents

What happens if I have an accident?

Stop immediately

If you have an accident, you must stop immediately. It does not matter how small the accident looks. You must stop.

Help anyone who is injured

If your car or motorcycle is involved in the accident, the law requires you to give whatever necessary help you are able to give, to anyone who has been injured.

If you don't stop or help, you could get a heavy fine and/or be imprisoned.

Do I need to call the police to the accident scene?

Not always.

You only need to call the police if:

- Someone has been killed or injured;
- There looks like more than \$500 of damage to property (including animals);
- The driver of a vehicle involved doesn't stop or won't exchange details;
- The driver appears to be on drugs or drunk; or
- A vehicle needs to be towed.

If for some reason police are not called to the accident, but someone was killed or injured or there was more than \$500 worth of property damage, you must, within 24 hours, report the accident to the police station closest to the accident.

You do not have to make this report if you cannot do so due to injuries suffered in the accident.

Do I need to exchange information?

If you are the driver in an accident and someone has been injured or killed, you are legally required to give certain information to the other driver or a police officer. You also have the right to ask for certain information from the other drivers.

That information includes:

- Your name and address
- Your licence details

- Your vehicle's registration number, and
- If the car is not yours, the name and address of the owner.

If you cannot provide this information because of injuries suffered in the accident, that's OK.

The information you give must be truthful. It is an offence to give false information.

Will I be fined or charged?

If you are responsible for an accident, the police may give you a penalty notice or court attendance notice for negligent driving or driving in a manner dangerous to the public. If someone is killed or injured, you may be charged with negligent or dangerous driving occasioning death or grievous bodily harm. The penalties for these offences can be severe and can include prison sentences.

See *Fact Sheet 5* for more information about serious traffic offences.

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The information in this fact sheet contains a basic summary of the law in New South Wales. It is not legal advice. This means that if you need legal advice, you should see a lawyer – do not rely on this information as a substitute for legal advice.

For more information, visit us at www.theshopfront.org or contact us at:

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