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## Reporting a Car Accident to Police in Louisiana

Quick steps, evidence checklist, and common insurance proof gaps.

### When to Call Police

Louisiana requires reporting certain crashes to law enforcement. If anyone is hurt, if someone left the scene, or if damage may exceed the legal threshold, call promptly and ask for an incident or report number.

- Any injury or death.
- Damage that appears over \$500.
- Hit-and-run, suspected impairment, or an unsafe roadway.
- If you are not sure, call and ask the dispatcher what to do next.

### What to Say (Keep It Clean)

- Give identification, registration, and insurance information.
- Describe what you saw and where the vehicles ended up.
- Avoid guessing speeds or apologizing as a way to be polite.
- Ask how to obtain the completed crash report and when it will be ready.

### First 72 Hours Evidence Checklist

- Photos/video of the scene, damage, roadway, and traffic controls.
- Witness names and phone numbers, plus a one-line note of what they saw.
- Tow slip, repair estimate, and rental or transportation receipts.
- Your same-day timeline: time, weather, lane, and what you felt afterward.
- All insurer claim numbers and adjuster contact details.

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# Infographic 1: Police Report Evidence Blueprint

Five steps to build the record + a first-72-hours mini checklist.

### Police Report Evidence Blueprint

**Goal:** Create a clean record before stories drift. [Jump: 72-Hour Plan](#)

- 1 Call Police If Required**  
Injury, death, or damage over \$500.
- 2 Share Basics Stay Brief**  
Name, address, insurance, and ID.
- 3 Capture Scene Proof**  
Wide photos, video, witness contacts.
- 4 Write a Timeline**  
What happened and when pain began.
- 5 Get the Report Fix Errors Early**  
Report number and agency details.

#### First 72 Hours Mini Checklist

- Report number
- Officer name
- Witness contacts
- Insurance cards
- Scene photos/video
- Damage close-ups
- Tow/repair papers
- Notes: time/weather

[See: Get the Report](#)

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## Infographic 2: Defense vs Evidence Anchors

How insurers challenge no-report cases and the documentation that answers.

### Defense vs Evidence Anchors

Common insurance angles and the record that answers

[Jump: Defense Audit](#)

Defense Angle	Evidence Anchor
<p>Low impact No injuries No report filed So it was minor</p>	<p>Time-stamped photos Repair estimate 911 call log</p>
<p>Story changed after the scene Late police call Not credible</p>	<p>Same-day timeline notes Text messages Tow slip</p>
<p>Admitted fault Guessed speed Contradiction on the record</p>	<p>Short factual mechanics only Witness contacts Lane photos</p>
<p>No witnesses No scene photos So it's 50/50 Push 51% bar</p>	<p>Witness list Nearby video Business cams Preserve quickly</p>
<p>Report errors Wrong lane/time Wrong driver Insurer cites it</p>	<p>Check report Request supplement Keep proof sent</p>

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## Free Case Review: Evidence-First, Deadline-Aware

If the record is incomplete, we focus on building leverage early.

### What We Do First

- Identify missing records: dispatch logs, report numbers, photos, and witness contacts.
- Spot time-sensitive requests: video overwrites, towing storage, and supplement deadlines.
- Plan insurer communications so your statement matches the facts you can prove.

### Contact

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This toolkit is general information and is not legal advice. If you are inside the first 72 hours, evidence can change quickly, so consider getting legal guidance tailored to your situation.