

# Recognizing Signs of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) After a Car Accident

The car accident lawyers at Clancy & Diaz, LLP have seen firsthand how devastating traumatic brain injuries (TBI) can be. TBI can cause permanent neurological damage and long-term cognitive, physical, and emotional impairments, such as memory loss, paralysis, and depression. Some brain injuries can be fatal.

The sooner you seek medical attention for a brain injury, the better. That's why it is important to understand the causes, symptoms, and treatment options associated with this type of car accident injury.

## How traumatic brain injuries happen in car accidents

TBI occurs when a sudden jolt or blow to the head damages the brain. For example, brain injuries can happen in car accidents when the head collides with an object, such as the dashboard, steering wheel, or window. They can also occur even if you don't hit your head on anything; any violent forward and backward movement of the head can be enough to cause the brain to strike the inside of the skull.

Concussions are considered mild traumatic brain injuries (mTBI) because they typically don't involve structural damage to the brain, and the symptoms are often temporary. But it's important to note that just because a concussion is classified as a mild TBI does not mean it should be taken lightly or ignored. Even a mild TBI can have severe consequences if not properly treated. For example, a second injury before the first has fully healed can cause a potentially life-threatening complication called second impact syndrome.

## Brain injury symptoms and warning signs

The symptoms of TBI can range from mild to severe, and they can appear immediately after the injury or days or weeks later. Common symptoms include:

- Loss of consciousness
- Headache
- Nausea and vomiting
- Confusion
- Memory loss
- Sensory problems
- Mood changes



Some brain injury symptoms may not be immediately apparent, and others may be more visible to someone else instead of the victim. Therefore, after a crash, the best practice is to get checked out by a doctor immediately.

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# Obtaining Traffic Camera Video of Your California Car Accident

Dealing with the aftermath of a car accident can be a confusing and stressful time, but having evidence of the crash can be crucial in determining fault and pursuing compensation. One valuable source of evidence can be traffic camera footage, which provides an objective record of the events leading up to and during the accident.

In California, specific laws govern the availability and use of traffic camera footage. This footage can be obtained through a request under the California Public Records Act, or through other means, such as contacting the Department of Transportation.

## Steps to obtain traffic camera video in California

The first and most obvious step in obtaining traffic camera footage of a car accident in California is determining if the accident occurred in a monitored area. Traffic cameras are typically located in busy intersections, highway exits and entrances, and other areas with high traffic flow. If the accident occurred in one of these areas, there's a good chance that footage of the incident exists. If video of your crash does exist, here's what you'll need to do next:

- Request video footage from the local law enforcement agency.
- If a local law enforcement agency won't provide the footage, you can make a written request under the California Public Records Act.
- Another option is to contact the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for footage.
- Hire an attorney to help you obtain the footage.

In addition to the steps outlined above, it's also possible to obtain video footage of your car accident from nearby private individuals or businesses. Likewise, dash cam footage from the vehicles involved in the crash or recorded by vehicles driving by or near the accident can be valuable. Finally, cellphone video footage of the accident recorded by someone involved in the collision or a bystander might be available.

However, obtaining this footage is not always straightforward. Sometimes, individuals may be cooperative and willing to provide the footage without resistance. In other cases, you may encounter obstacles that are difficult to overcome without the help of an experienced car accident attorney.

## How long before traffic camera video is overwritten?

Accidents at or near red lights or speed cameras are usually documented by a nearby surveillance system. But there is no consistent policy regarding how long these types of traffic cameras will save their footage.

For instance, in some California cities, footage from red light cameras may be kept for one year, while other cities may keep their recordings for as little as two weeks. If you hire a car accident lawyer, they can immediately ask for access to relevant video footage and request that it be preserved instead of erased or destroyed.

## We can help you find the facts that matter to your case

When pursuing an injury claim, there are a number of legal requirements to establish who is at fault. Video footage will often show the actual events and help the court or insurance company determine who is to blame. Additionally, videos of the crash can be used to corroborate witness testimony and help establish how the accident unfolded.

The highly skilled legal team at Clancy & Diaz, LLP, understands how to investigate accidents, gather and preserve evidence, and build strong cases. If you or a loved one was injured in a Bay Area crash, contact us today to see how we can help you. There is no obligation, and we offer legal representation on a contingency fee basis. That means you pay no fees unless we win your case.

**Schedule your free case evaluation.**



# How To Document Your Slip & Fall Case

Slip and fall accidents are among the most common personal injury cases in California and the United States. They can result in serious injuries that have long-lasting effects. Slip and falls can occur anywhere, whether at a store, a restaurant, a public park, or a private residence. When a slip and fall occurs due to the negligence of another party, the victim may be entitled to compensation for their injuries.

One of the most critical steps in protecting your legal rights after a slip, trip, and fall is to document your case as thoroughly as possible. This involves taking several key steps, including seeking medical attention, speaking with a personal injury attorney, and documenting the details of the accident itself.

## Seeking medical attention after a slip & fall

Aside from addressing immediate health concerns, seeking medical attention also serves a critical role in the legal process. Medical records can demonstrate the severity of your injuries, the costs of your treatment, and the potential long-term effects of the accident.

In addition, medical records can help establish a causal link between your injuries and the circumstances of the accident.

## Gathering evidence to support your claim

Documenting your slip and fall is crucial for ensuring you receive the compensation you are entitled to under California law.

Here are six key steps to document your slip and fall case:

- 1. Save your shoes:** Your shoes might contain critical evidence such as grease or a slippery liquid that may have contributed to the accident. As soon as possible after the slip and fall, store the shoes you were wearing in a plastic bag or sealed container. Don't wear them again until your case is resolved.
- 2. Take photos:** If you can, take pictures of the accident scene. Try to capture the cause of your fall (such as a slippery surface or uneven pavement) and the surrounding area. Photos can be powerful evidence in support of your claim.
- 3. Write down what happened:** Write down everything you remember about the accident as soon as possible. This should include details such

as the date and time of the accident, the location, the cause of your fall, and any injuries you sustained. Be as detailed as possible.

- 4. Get witness contact info:** If there were any witnesses to your accident, get their contact information. Witness testimony can be valuable evidence in support of your claim. Write down their names, phone numbers, and email addresses if possible.
- 5. Keep a record:** Make a record of any ways in which your injuries have affected your life. This could include missed work, medical appointments, or difficulty performing everyday tasks. Keep a journal or use an app to document your experiences.
- 6. Preserve medical records and receipts:** Keep track of all medical records and receipts related to your injuries. This includes doctor's notes, hospital bills, and prescription receipts. These records can help establish the extent of your injuries and the costs associated with treatment.

It is also critical not to speak to insurance companies without first consulting an attorney. Insurance adjusters may try to twist your words or get you to say things that could harm your case, so it is important to have a legal professional on your side to protect your interests.

## Protect your rights with a slip and fall lawyer

The legal team at Clancy & Diaz, LLP has extensive experience handling slip and fall cases in California's East Bay. We can help you understand your legal rights, gather evidence to support your claim, and fight to recover the compensation you deserve.

Don't wait to take action. Instead, contact Clancy & Diaz, LLP, for a free consultation to see how our law firm can help with your potential legal case.

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### *Recognizing Signs of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) After a Car Accident*

The treatment for TBI depends on the severity of the injury, but there is no such thing as a “minor” brain injury. Mild TBIs may heal with rest and time. Severe cases of TBI may require hospitalization and surgery.

In addition to medical treatment, people with TBI may benefit from rehabilitation services such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy. These services can help the person regain lost skills and function.

### **A brain injury attorney can protect your rights**

If you or someone you know has sustained a traumatic brain injury, it’s essential to seek medical attention immediately. Early intervention can make a significant difference in the outcome of the injury. You also need a proper diagnosis to avoid aggravating the injury.

In addition to seeking medical attention, it’s important to speak with an experienced attorney about your potential legal options. At Clancy & Diaz, LLP, our attorneys can help you navigate the claims process and fight for the compensation you deserve under California law.

Contact us today to schedule your free case evaluation.