

Maximizing Your Auto Settlement

A guide to understanding and navigating the auto settlement process in Colorado.

Based on Auto Settlement by McCormick and Murphy

Step 1: Understand Colorado's Minimum Insurance Requirements

Colorado law mandates minimum liability coverage: \$25,000 per person for bodily injury, \$50,000 per accident for bodily injury, and \$15,000 per accident for property damage.

- Ensure your policy meets or exceeds these minimums.
- Consider higher coverage limits for better protection.



Step 2: Gather Essential Documentation

Collect all relevant documents, including the police report, photos of the damage and injuries, medical records and bills, repair estimates, and proof of lost wages.

- Organize your documents systematically.
- Keep copies of everything for your records.



Step 3: Notify Your Insurance Company

Report the accident to your insurance provider as soon as possible. Provide them with all the details of the incident.

- Be honest and accurate in your report.
- Note the date and time you reported the accident.



Step 4: Document All Damages and Injuries

Thoroughly document all physical damage to your vehicle and any injuries sustained. Take clear photos and videos.

- Photograph damage from multiple angles.
- Seek medical attention even for seemingly minor injuries.



Step 5: Understand the Role of the Adjuster

An insurance adjuster will assess the damage and determine the settlement amount. Cooperate with the adjuster but be aware of their role.

- Be prepared to explain the extent of damages and injuries.
- Do not feel pressured to accept the first offer.



Step 6: Negotiate Your Settlement

Review the adjuster's offer carefully. If it does not adequately cover your losses, be prepared to negotiate based on your documented evidence.

- Know the value of your claim.
- Be polite but firm in your negotiations.



Step 7: Consider Legal Counsel

If negotiations fail or the settlement offer is unfair, consult with an experienced auto accident attorney.

- Attorneys can help ensure you receive fair compensation.
- Many offer free initial consultations.

Resources & Further Reading

Related guides for this process:

■ Colorado Auto Settlement Checklist

<https://storage.googleapis.com/mccormick-and-murphy-checklists-20260706-65ee7b/mccormick-and-murphy/Checklist/colorado-auto-settlement-checklist.pdf>

■ Maximizing Your Auto Settlement (Infographic)

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