

# HIT-AND-RUN PENALTIES FOR DRIVERS IN ARIZONA

## PENALTIES FOR HIT-AND-RUN DRIVERS IN ARIZONA

Leaving the scene of an accident is wrong, particularly when people have been injured. In Arizona, it is also illegal. A driver involved in a crash where someone has been injured or killed is required to provide a name and address and show his or her driver's license if asked. Drivers involved in a crash are also required by law to help those injured get medical assistance.

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The penalties for hit-and-run drivers in Arizona vary, depending on the nature of the accident.

### **I. Minor injury:**

If you suffered minor injuries in an accident, the at-fault driver could be sentenced to over two and a half years in prison and lose their license for three years.

### **II. Serious injury or death:**

If a driver was involved in but didn't cause an accident that resulted in serious injury or death, Arizona state law requires them to receive at least eight and three-quarters years in prison and five years of license suspension for fleeing the scene.

### **III. Serious injury or death in a crash caused by a guilty party:**

If a driver flees the scene of an accident they caused that resulted in serious injury or death, they'll receive at least 12.5 years in prison and lose their license for 10 years for fleeing.

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## WHAT YOU SHOULD DO AFTER A HIT AND RUN ACCIDENT IN ARIZONA

If you've been in an accident with a driver who left the scene before giving a statement to the police or exchanging insurance information with you, there are several things you can do to make your life easier. First of all, you should have any serious or painful injuries checked out by a medical professional. If your injuries are minor, **take the following steps immediately after and in the days following a hit and run collision:**

### I. DOCUMENT THE VEHICLE AND DRIVER:

- The make and model of the driver's vehicle
- The vehicle's color
- The license plate number
- The state shown on the license plate
- Any unique aspects of the vehicle
- The driver's basic physical characteristics

### II. CALL THE POLICE

Once you've written down all you can remember about the vehicle and the driver, contact local law enforcement as soon as possible. They'll investigate the accident scene and file a report that your attorney can use when preparing your claim or lawsuit.

The police will also conduct an investigation to identify the driver who fled the scene. If their investigation is successful, it could mean more compensation for your medical bills, property damage, and other accident-related challenges.

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## III. SPEAK TO WITNESSES

If anyone was walking near the scene of the accident when it occurred or got out of their car to see if you were ok, talk to them and ask them about what they saw. See if they would be willing to speak to your attorney about what they witnessed and ask for their contact information. Their testimony could help you get the compensation you're owed.

## IV. TAKE PHOTOS

In addition to documenting details about the offending driver's car, you'll also want to document the scene of the accident. Take photos of your vehicle damage and any signs, railings, or other objects that were damaged in the hit and run crash.

You'll also want to photograph any visible injuries you've sustained. Having photographic evidence of the accident and your injuries can go a long way when pursuing damages.

## V. HIRE AN ARIZONA HIT AND RUN ATTORNEY

Filing a personal injury lawsuit or even an insurance claim after a car wreck can be extremely challenging, especially if you're dealing with debilitating injuries. If you've been injured in a car accident that the offending driver fled from, you need to hire a hit & run lawyer ASAP.

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Getting started on your case soon will be helpful if you end up having to file a civil suit. That's because Arizona has a strict filing deadline for car accident lawsuits. Under [A.R.S. § 12-542](#), you have two years from the date of the collision to file a lawsuit. Filing any later than the two-year mark could stop you from getting the payment you need to cover your losses. Additionally, you should report the accident to your insurance company as soon as possible.

## **HAVE YOU BEEN INJURED IN AN ARIZONA CAR ACCIDENT?**

If you've been injured in a car accident you need to speak with an experienced car accident attorney as soon as possible. Contact Wood Injury Law to schedule your free consultation.