

Drunk Driving Accidents

What to do when DUI causes serious injury in California



Driving under the influence is a crime—and victims can also bring a civil claim to recover full compensation. This short ebook explains liability, compensation, and how Hillstone Law helps after a DUI crash.

Civil liability beyond criminal charges

A DUI arrest or conviction does not automatically pay your bills. Separate from the criminal case, a civil claim seeks compensation for the injuries and losses caused by the impaired driver. Evidence often includes field sobriety tests, blood■alcohol results, officer observations, and witness statements.

Compensation you may recover

- Emergency care, hospitalization, surgery, rehabilitation, and future medical needs
- Lost wages and reduced earning capacity
- Pain, suffering, and emotional distress
- Property damage and rental/transportation costs
- Punitive damages for egregious drunk or drug■impaired driving

Key California considerations

- DUI causing injury can support punitive damages when the conduct shows conscious disregard for safety
- Civil recovery is still possible even if the at-fault driver faces criminal charges separately
- Uninsured/Underinsured Motorist (UM/UIM) coverage may provide an additional source of recovery
- Bars/restaurants typically have limited 'dram shop' liability in California, but employers or event hosts may share fault in some scenarios

How Hillstone Law helps

We move fast to secure crash evidence, BAC records, and surveillance footage; contact witnesses; calculate the full value of your claim; and negotiate aggressively with insurers. If necessary, we file suit and take the case to trial. There are no upfront fees—clients pay only if we win.

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