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### What to Do in Case of a Rideshare Car Accident



Nowadays, using a rideshare app such as Uber or Lyft has become common and convenient. You put your destination into the app and immediately receive offers from area drivers to transport you, often at a better price than local taxis or shuttle services. But what happens if the rideshare vehicle you're in gets into an accident?

#### Tech Company--Not Transport

What's unique about rideshare companies (or transportation network companies—TNC—as they are legally known) is that they are not governed by the same laws as taxi companies. That's because they bill themselves as "tech" companies, not transportation companies. They are simply providing a way for passengers to connect with drivers via technology. Therefore, the umbrella company has far fewer obligations and liabilities than a taxi company. Some of these include:

- Not responsible for maintaining vehicles
- Drivers are "independent contractors" and as such the parent company is not required to offer them benefits or protections
- The parent company is not always responsible for the actions of the drivers

#### Accident Victims Rights and Recourse

So, if you're in a crash while riding in a TNC vehicle who pays for the damages? All TNC drivers must carry the minimum insurance required by law in their state. In addition, the parent companies do offer some insurance, but it varies depending upon the situation of the accident. Coverage for any injuries you sustain will depend on who's at fault for the accident. If your TNC driver is at fault or in the case of a hit and run, you will be eligible to receive coverage from their or the parent company's insurance. If the fault is found to be with the other driver, you will have to pursue a claim with that person's insurance company.

In any case, you should be as diligent in collecting information as you would if it was your vehicle in an accident. Get contact information from drivers and witnesses, take photos of vehicles and the accident scene, and get checked out by a doctor or hospital for injuries.

#### Don't Go It Alone

Collecting the compensation you're entitled to if you're in a rideshare car accident can be complicated and time-consuming. Consult an experienced attorney to make sure you recover what you are entitled to for damages.

### 6 Car Safety Tips for Children



It's a sad fact but according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration car accidents are the number one killer of children in the U.S. ages 1 to 12. There is much that parents can do, however, to reduce the risk of harm to their children while driving. Below are six tips.

1. **Know and follow car seat guidelines.** The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children remain in rear-facing car seats until the age of 2. Make sure your child's car seat is properly installed and check it frequently to see that it is secured. Update the seat as your child grows.
2. **Never leave a child alone in a car.** From kidnapping to heat stroke to being struck by another vehicle, the perils of a child left in a car without an adult are staggering. Don't do it—even for a quick minute!
3. **Have a strategy to avoid leaving a child behind.** Each summer there are tragic stories of infants being left in car seats by accident. There are several good strategies to force you into the back seat before locking the car: stash your briefcase, pocketbook, or other items that you will have to take with you in the back seat; put a large stuffed animal in the car seat when your baby is not with you—when he or she is, put the animal in the front seat as a visual reminder.
4. **Eliminate distractions.** Get everything set before you start to drive—your GPS, music, etc. Turn off your cell phone if it is not hands-free. Give your children books or other toys for the trip before you leave the garage.
5. **No food, please.** While children are frequently given food to keep them content in the car this can become the cause of an accident if they begin to choke on it while you're driving.
6. **Practice defensive driving.** Become a safer driver for the sake of your children. Always keep plenty of distance between you and the vehicle ahead of you; be vigilant about what's going on around you and follow other safe driving techniques to keep your precious cargo safe!

Have you or a loved one been a victim of a **DUI, car, truck, or motorcycle accident, dog attack, or a slip and fall incident?** If so **Tiemann Law Firm** can help. Our experienced **personal injury attorneys** will fight for the compensation you deserve. **Contact us** today for a free, same-day consultation by calling: (916) 999-9000 or toll-free: (800) 712-2000.



### Recipe of the Month Tomato and Goat Cheese Tarts



It's tomato season and if you're wondering what to do with the abundance, try this savory tart.

#### Ingredients

- 1 package (17.3 ounces/2 sheets) puff pastry, defrosted
- Good olive oil
- 4 cups thinly sliced yellow onions (2 large onions)
- 3 large garlic cloves, cut into thin slivers
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons dry white wine
- 2 teaspoons minced fresh thyme leaves
- 4 tablespoons freshly grated Parmesan, plus 2 ounces shaved with a vegetable peeler
- 4 ounces garlic-and-herb goat cheese (recommended: Montrachet)
- 1 large tomato, cut into four 1/4-inch-thick slices
- 3 tablespoons julienned basil leaves

#### Directions

1. Unfold a sheet of puff pastry on a lightly floured surface and roll it lightly to an 11 by 11-inch square. Using a 6-inch-wide saucer or other round object as a guide, cut 2 circles from the sheet of puff pastry, discarding the scraps. Repeat with the second pastry sheet to make 4 circles in all. Place the pastry circles on 2 sheet pans lined with parchment paper and refrigerate until ready to use.
2. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F.
3. Heat 3 tablespoons of olive oil in a large skillet over medium to low heat and add the onions and garlic. Sauté for 15 to 20 minutes, stirring frequently, until the onions are limp and there is almost no moisture remaining in the skillet. Add 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon pepper, the wine, and thyme and continue to cook for another 10 minutes, until the onions are lightly browned. Remove from the heat.
4. Using a sharp paring knife, score a 1/4-inch-wide border around each pastry circle. Prick the pastry inside the score lines with the tines of a fork and sprinkle a tablespoon of grated Parmesan on each round, staying inside the scored border.
5. Place 1/4 of the onion mixture on each circle, again staying within the scored edge. Crumble 1 ounce of goat cheese on top of the onions. Place a slice of tomato in the center of each tart. Brush the tomato lightly with olive oil and sprinkle with basil, salt, and pepper. Finally, scatter 4 or 5 shards of Parmesan on each tart.
6. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until the pastry is golden brown. The bottom sheet pan may need an extra few minutes in the oven. Serve hot or warm.

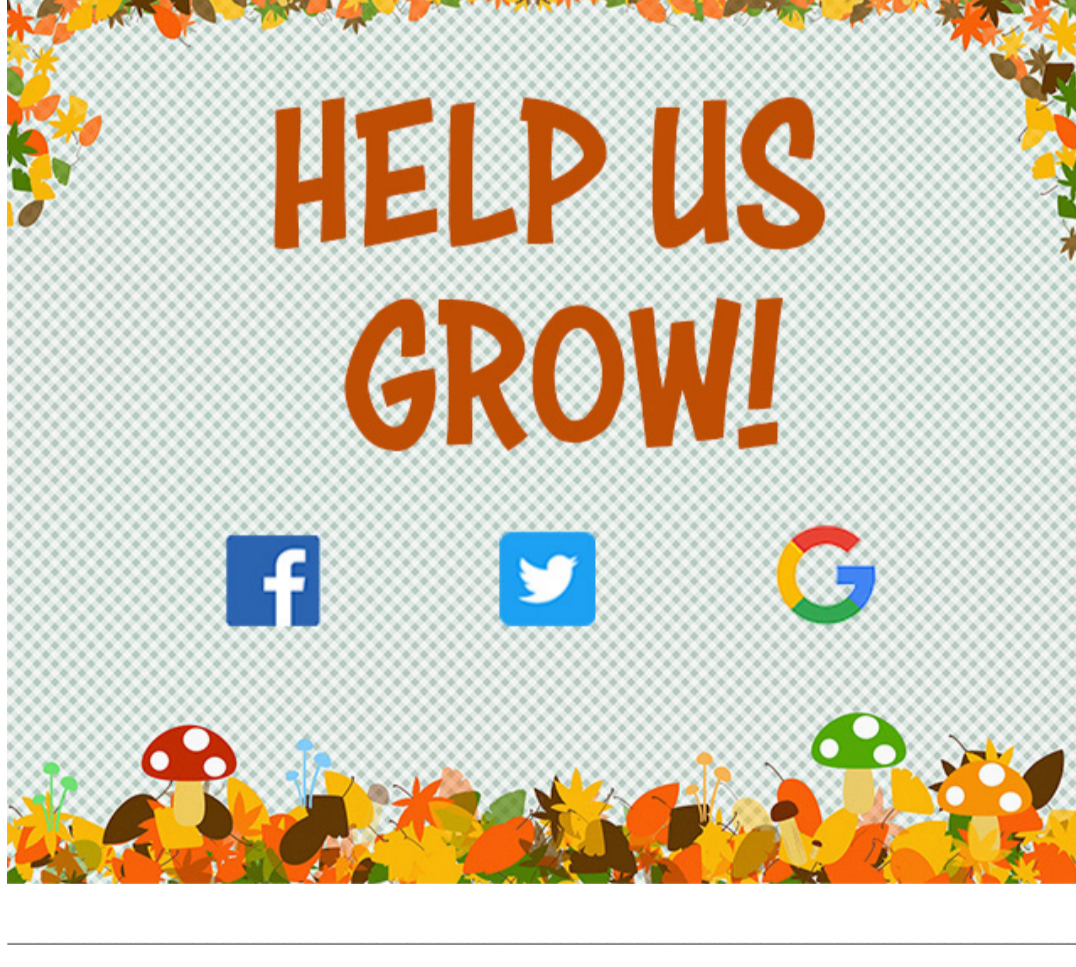
Recipe courtesy of Ina Garten

### Featured Attorney



Jelena Tiemann

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