

# Understanding Whiplash After a Collision: Medical Indicators and Legal Considerations

OPELOUSAS, LA, UNITED STATES, June 4, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Whiplash is one of the most frequently reported injuries following vehicle collisions, particularly rear-end accidents. While often perceived as a minor issue, the effects of whiplash can result in long-term complications requiring medical treatment, time away from work, and ongoing legal considerations. Attorneys at [Morrow Law Firm](#), based in Opelousas and led by [William P. Morrow](#), John Michael Morrow, Jr., and Stephen M. Morrow, continue to monitor how such injuries are addressed within the context of Louisiana injury law.

Whiplash occurs when the head is abruptly forced backward and then forward, resulting in strain or damage to the muscles, ligaments, or spinal structures in the neck. This motion can happen within seconds during an impact and often leaves no immediate visible injuries. Nonetheless, the internal trauma can be significant.

"The physical effects of whiplash are often delayed," said William P. Morrow, a personal injury attorney who frequently handles claims involving workers injured on the job or while commuting. "Symptoms may not present until hours or even days after the crash, which can complicate both medical treatment and legal documentation."

## Common Signs and Symptoms of Whiplash

Medical professionals identify a wide range of symptoms associated with whiplash. These may vary from person to person, depending on factors such as age, physical condition, and the severity of the impact. Common symptoms include:





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*William P. Morrow*

Neck pain and stiffness

Reduced range of motion

Headaches, often originating at the base of the skull

Shoulder, upper back, or arm pain

Tingling or numbness in the arms or hands

Dizziness or blurred vision

Fatigue and difficulty concentrating

In more serious cases, individuals may experience sleep disturbances, memory issues, or mood changes. These secondary effects can significantly affect one’s ability to work or perform daily tasks.

Because whiplash is classified as a soft tissue injury, it may not appear on standard X-rays. Diagnosis often relies on a combination of patient history, physical exams, and advanced imaging such as MRI or CT scans. Documentation of symptoms and treatment is essential not only for medical purposes but also for any legal claims that may arise.

### Legal Ramifications and Reporting Timelines

In Louisiana, personal injury claims must typically be filed within two years of the incident under the state's prescriptive period (commonly referred to as the statute of limitations). Whiplash cases can be more complex than they appear, especially when the injury interferes with job performance or results in partial or total disability.

In many cases, individuals experiencing whiplash from a car accident may also be in the course and scope of their employment—such as delivery drivers, transport personnel, or those traveling between job sites. This intersection of motor vehicle accident law and workplace injury law can introduce additional considerations regarding compensation and employer liability.

Morrow noted that in such cases, the injury may fall under both workers' compensation and personal injury frameworks. “Dual claims require careful evaluation. A worker involved in a collision during the workday may be entitled to more than one form of recovery depending on how the injury occurred and which parties are involved.”

### Insurance Considerations

Whiplash claims often require supporting evidence beyond the initial emergency room visit. Adjusters typically look for ongoing treatment notes, therapy records, and physician statements connecting the symptoms to the incident. Insurance companies may dispute or minimize soft tissue injuries, especially when vehicle damage is minimal or if treatment was delayed.

Accurate and timely documentation is key. Missed medical appointments, lack of follow-up care, or gaps in the treatment timeline can weaken a claim, even when the pain or dysfunction is legitimate. Those who suffer whiplash may also incur additional costs such as prescription medication, physical therapy, lost wages, or occupational reassignments.

### Workplace Context and Implications

For workers whose roles involve driving, transporting materials, or operating commercial vehicles, whiplash may affect productivity and long-term employability. In such scenarios, cases are often evaluated under both personal injury and workers' compensation law. The interplay between employer responsibilities, third-party liability, and medical limitations forms the basis of many claims handled in civil court or negotiated through administrative channels.

Morrow Law Firm continues to serve clients throughout Louisiana, focusing on injury-related cases with emphasis on legal pathways involving overlapping workplace and vehicular scenarios. With offices in Opelousas, the firm is led by attorneys William P. Morrow, John Michael Morrow, Jr., and Stephen M. Morrow, each with extensive experience in Louisiana's legal system.

### About Morrow Law Firm

Morrow Law Firm provides legal services in the areas of workplace injury, personal injury, and related civil matters. The firm is headquartered in Opelousas, Louisiana, and serves clients throughout the state.

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