

What are the Hit & Run Laws in Arizona?

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In 2012, there were more than 103,000 car accidents in the state of Arizona. A majority of these – over 84,000 – involved multiple vehicles. When accidents have more than one vehicle, there is a greater chance of a hit and run, or leaving the scene of an accident.

Leaving the Scene of an Accident in Arizona

In Arizona, you are legally obligated to stop if you are involved in an accident, and failure to do so can be considered as leaving the scene of an accident, which may earn you a hit and run charge. This charge can come with serious consequences, especially if someone was injured in the accident.

Arizona Hit and Run Statutes

Arizona law, A.R.S. 28-663, Duty to Give Information and Assistance, states that if you are involved in an accident, you are legally required to perform the following duties:

1. Give your name, address, and registration to the other driver or responding police officer.
2. Show your driver's license if the other driver or responding officer requests that you do so.
3. Assist the other driver by administering first aid or getting help for injuries if necessary.

Any individual who fails to offer information or assistance after they have been involved in an accident in Arizona can be charged with class 3 misdemeanor, which can come with up to \$500 in fines and 30 days in jail.

Damage from a Hit and Run Accident

In addition to the statute above, Arizona law includes A.R.S. 28-662 regarding accidents involving damage to a vehicle. This statute states that any individual who is involved in an accident and damage is done to a vehicle has the legal obligation to stop as soon as possible. If you are unable to stop immediately, you must return to the scene as soon as possible. After you have stopped, you must perform the same duties as are stated in A.R.S. 28-663.

Felony Charges for a Hit and Run

In the event that a hit and run accident caused serious physical injury or death, the defendant may be charged with a felony. Felony charges vary depending on the circumstances, but in general, a class 2 felony may be charged to someone who's accident caused physical harm or death. A class 3 felony can be charged if the defendant didn't cause the accident but still left the scene of the crime.

A class 5 felony can be charged to other hit and run accidents that don't cause serious injury or death, and as we mentioned, failure to stop after any accident can be a class 3 misdemeanor.

Jeremy Geigle is a criminal defense attorney and shareholder at JacksonWhite. He has been practicing over 8 years and has handled thousands of felony and misdemeanor counts. He works in both adult and juvenile court handling DUIs, aggravated felonies and sex crimes in Arizona. He works in Federal, State and local jurisdictions including Phoenix, Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, Scottsdale, Glendale, Tempe and

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