INTERPRETING YOUR WEST VIRGINIA CAR ACCIDENT POLICE REPORT

DMV-17-F REVISED 5/97

WEST VIRGINIA UNIFORM TRAFFIC CRASH REPORT

PAGE ___ OF ___

LOCATION

Seemingly straightforward sections like the "Location" of your accident can be problematic if inaccurate information is included. Verify all the information on this page, starting with the date and time of your crash.

DRIVER & VEHICLE

The "Driver" and "Vehicle" sections on this document are especially important.

SOBRIETY TEST GIVEN

Pay close attention to line items concerning "Sobriety Test Given." If the other driver was given a sobriety test and failed, you could have grounds for a drunk driving accident lawsuit.

CONTRIBUTING CIRCUMSTANCES

Another important line item in the "Vehicle" section concerns "Contributing Circumstances." Your case might be significantly stronger depending on which box the investigating police officer marked in this section.

INJURY CLASSIFICATION

The section marked "Codes" contains a subsection marked "Injury Classification." Pay close attention to the letter from this subsection listed in the column marked "Injury" for "Persons Involved" in the accident. Make sure you agree with the letter selected by the investigating police officer to describe injuries sustained by you or anyone else in the accident. Insurance companies often use this section when determining how much to pay injury victims.

ENVIRONMENT & CRASH TYPE

Also make sure you agree with the investigating police officer's entries for "Environment" and "Crash Type," which goes into great detail about the type of accident (rear end, head on, etc) and cause of accident (loss of control, overturn, etc).

DIAGRAM & NARRATIVE

The top of this page contains space for the investigating officer to draw a diagram of your accident. On the bottom half of the page, the investigating officer writes a narrative of what happened in the section marked "Describe What Happened." Make sure the diagram and officer's description of your accident accurately reflects what happened. If you disagree with the diagram or the officer's description, make sure you set the record straight.

STATEMENTS

This page is solely devoted to "Statements of Involved Drivers and Witnesses (If Available)." Insurance companies carefully read these statements to determine who's at fault and who should be compensated for their accident. Here again, carefully review these statements and make sure you agree 100 percent with every word on this page. If you have the slightest doubt or disagreement, don't hesitate to contact us immediately.

COLLISION DIAGRAM

DRAW SCENE AS OBSERVED, INCLUDING ROADWAY LAYOUT, VEHICLE, PEDESTRIAN OR OBJECT STRUCK, TRAFFIC CONTROLS, SKIDMARKS, ETC.

DRAW ARROW POINTING NORTH IN CIRCLE

IMPORTANT: NUMBER THE VEHICLES ACCORDING TO THE VEHICLE NUMBERS ON THE FRONT PAGE.

Scale: 1 inch = 20 feet

NARRATIVE

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED (Refer to Vehicles by Number)

STATEMENTS OF INVOLVED DRIVERS AND WITNESSES (IF AVAILABLE)

ATTACH ADDITIONAL STATEMENT SHEETS AS NEEDED