

How To Read Your Accident Report

Our clients tell us that they want to know exactly what the investigating police officer reported about the details and facts of how their accident occurred. As a special service to you, we are providing a copy of the official "State of Maine - Crash Reporting Guide." This guide provides you with the full ability to interpret all of the various numbered boxes that appear throughout your accident report.

Usually, the police officer's narrative description on the report only tells part of the story as to how the accident occurred. Below are tips on how to read your accident report, including some of the most important boxes.

First, determine whether the officer has you listed as unit 1 or unit 2.

Boxes 1 through 12 report details on the location of the accident, the type of accident, whether a fixed object was struck, other property damage, traffic control devices, light, weather, road surface and road character, whether road work was being done, speed limit, and whether an emergency vehicle was involved.

INVESTIGATING AGENCY CODE NUMBER ME0000000		TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT STATE OF MAINE		FOR D.P.S. USE ONLY P	
DATE OF ACCIDENT MONTH 01 DAY 01 YEAR 2009		DAY OF WEEK Mon		TIME REPORTED 08:00	
ROUTE ANYWHERE RD		CITY OR TOWN NEWTOWN		COUNTY CUMBERLAND	
BETWEEN NODE NUMBERS 00008 00005		DISTANCE FROM SCENE 2 MILES 0 INTHS		TO NUMBER 00000	
E → UNIT NO. 1 - Vehicle		TOTAL UNITS INV. 2		W ← UNIT NO. 2 - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VEH. 2 <input type="checkbox"/> PED. <input type="checkbox"/> BIKE	
DRIVERS LICENSE NUMBER 1 0000000		STATE ME		DRIVERS LICENSE NUMBER 2 1000000	
LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE SMITH, JANE		LAST NAME FIRST NAME MIDDLE DOE, JOHN			
NUMBER AND STREET 1 MAINE STREET		NUMBER AND STREET 1 MAINE ROAD			
CITY STATE CODE NUMBER KITTERY ME 03904		CITY STATE CODE NUMBER PORTLAND ME 04102			
DATE OF BIRTH SEX LICENSE STATUS REST PERM CLASS 01/01/1954 F Q S P N 0 C		DATE OF BIRTH SEX LICENSE STATUS REST PERM CLASS 02/02/1950 M Q S P N 0 C			
LAST NAME - OWNER 1 FIRST NAME MIDDLE ABC ELECTRIC CO		LAST NAME - OWNER 2 FIRST NAME MIDDLE WIDGET MANUFACTURING			
NUMBER AND STREET 1 PLEASANT STREET		NUMBER AND STREET 1 STATE AVENUE			
CITY STATE CODE NUMBER BANGOR ME 04402		CITY STATE CODE NUMBER PORT KENT ME 04743			
VEHICLE TYPE YEAR AND MAKE Van 1997 Plymouth		VEHICLE TYPE YEAR AND MAKE Van 2000 GMC			
LICENSE PLATE NUMBER YEAR ISSUE STATE NO OCCUP 00001 2007 ME 1		LICENSE PLATE NUMBER YEAR ISSUE STATE NO OCCUP 00002 2007 ME 1			
VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NO. 000000000000000001		VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NO. 000000000000000002			
INSURANCE CO. ANY INSURANCE COMPANY		INSURANCE CO. ANY INSURANCE COMPANY			
POLICY NO. 00000000-01		POLICY NO. 00000000-02			
TOWED BY: AJAX TOWING		TOWED BY: ACME TOWING			
DAMAGE CODES DAMAGE ESTIMATE 1, 2, 9 \$5,800.00		DAMAGE CODES DAMAGE ESTIMATE 1, 2 \$1,000.00			
DESCRIPTION: Please see attached Form 001.					
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS INVOLVED: 2					
NAMES OF ALL PERSONS INVOLVED (DRIVERS - PASSENGERS - WITNESSES - PEDESTRIANS)					
SMITH, JANE (Driver/Owner)					
DOE, JOHN (Driver)					
JONES, MARY (Witness)					
INVESTIGATING OFFICER (SIGNATURE)		OFFICER NUMBER 01		TROOP OR DEPARTMENT NEWTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT	
		APPROVED BY SMITH, WILLIAM		DATE 01/01/2009	

Boxes 13 through 21 are often used to determine which driver was the negligent/at-fault party.

Boxes 25 through 34 report issues such as the age and sex of the occupants of the vehicles, details of the injuries suffered, use of safety equipment, which vehicle was occupied, whether the occupant was ejected from the vehicle, and the position of each occupant in the vehicle.

If you have any questions about any of the information provided on your accident report, call us toll-free at 1-800-CALL-JOE (1-800-225-5563) and we'll be happy to help you interpret what the report says free of charge.

The Law Offices of Joe Bornstein - Maine Lawyers Working For Maine People®