

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.

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

INVESTIGATING AGENCY CODE NUMBER ME0000000		TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT STATE OF MAINE		00-001-00		FOR D.P.S. USE ONLY P		
1	DATE OF ACCIDENT	2	DAY OF WEEK	3	TIME	4	TIME REPORTED	
2	01 01 2009	Mon	08:00	08:10	08:20			
1	ON ROUTE	2	OR NAME OF STREET OR HIGHWAY	3	CITY OR TOWN	4	COUNTY	
2	AT	00008	00005	2	NEWTOWN	00000	CUMBERLAND	
1	BETWEEN NODE NUMBERS	2	DISTANCE FROM SCENE	3	TO NUMBER	4	MILES AND TENTHS TO LANDMARK	
2	00008	00005	2	0	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		
3	DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER 1	4	STATE	5	DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER 2	6	STATE	
2	0000000	3	ME	4	1000000	5	ME	
3	LAST NAME	4	FIRST NAME	5	LAST NAME	6	FIRST NAME	
2	SMITH, JANE	3		4	DOE, JOHN	5		
3	NUMBER AND STREET	4	CITY	5	NUMBER AND STREET	6	CITY	
2	1 MAINE STREET	3	KITTERY	4	1 MAINE ROAD	5	PORTLAND	
3	STATE	4	CODE NUMBER	5	STATE	6	CODE NUMBER	
2	ME	3	03904	4	ME	5	04102	
3	DATE OF BIRTH	4	SEX	5	DATE OF BIRTH	6	SEX	
2	01/01/1954	3	F	4	02/02/1950	5	M	
3	LAST NAME - OWNER 1	4	FIRST NAME	5	LAST NAME - OWNER 2	6	FIRST NAME	
2	ABC ELECTRIC CO	3		4	WIDGET MANUFACTURING	5		
3	NUMBER AND STREET	4	CITY	5	NUMBER AND STREET	6	CITY	
2	1 PLEASANT STREET	3	BANGOR	4	1 STATE AVENUE	5	PORT KENT	
3	STATE	4	CODE NUMBER	5	STATE	6	CODE NUMBER	
2	ME	3	04402	4	ME	5	04743	
3	VEHICLE TYPE	4	YEAR AND MAKE	5	VEHICLE TYPE	6	YEAR AND MAKE	
2	Van	3	1997 Plymouth	4	Van	5	2000 GMC	
3	LICENSE PLATE NUMBER	4	ISSUE STATE	5	LICENSE PLATE NUMBER	6	ISSUE STATE	
2	00001	3	2007 ME	4	00002	5	2007 ME	
3	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NO.	4	INSURANCE CO.	5	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NO.	6	INSURANCE CO.	
2	000000000000000001	3	ANY INSURANCE COMPANY	4	000000000000000002	5	ANY INSURANCE COMPANY	
3	POLICY NO.	4	TOWED BY	5	POLICY NO.	6	TOWED BY	
2	00000000-01	3	AJAX TOWING	4	00000000-02	5	ACME TOWING	
3	DAMAGE CODES	4	DAMAGE ESTIMATE	5	DAMAGE CODES	6	DAMAGE ESTIMATE	
2	1, 2, 9	3	\$5,800.00	4	1, 2	5	\$1,000.00	
3	DESCRIPTION: Please see attached Form 001.						4	AMBULANCE CODES
2	To Newtown Toll						3	N/A(7000)
3	Maine Turnpike Southbound Lane						4	NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER OF DAMAGED PROPERTY (OTHER THAN VEH.)
2	AMBULANCE CODES						3	TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS INVOLVED: 2
3	NAMES OF ALL PERSONS INVOLVED (DRIVERS - PASSENGERS - WITNESSES - PEDESTRIANS)						4	25
2	SMITH, JANE (Driver/Owner)						3	2
3	DOE, JOHN (Driver)						4	4
2	JONES, MARY (Witness)						3	22
3	INVESTIGATING OFFICER (SIGNATURE)						4	OFFICER NUMBER
2	SMITH, WILLIAM						3	01
3	TROOP OR DEPARTMENT						4	APPROVED BY
2	NEWTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT						3	SMITH, WILLIAM
3	DATE						4	01/01/2009

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®