READING YOUR TEXAS CAR ACCIDENT R E P O R T

A car accident in Texas may be one of the most traumatic experiences you may face in your life. Your recovery can be extremely difficult. Dealing with the paperwork from insurance companies, law enforcement and doctors can be overwhelming.

Fort Worth car accident attorney Coby L. Wooten wants to help make the process easier for you. As a service, our law firm has included a sample accident report below with comments to use as a guide.

Carefully read your accident report and compare it to the sample form. Your crash report, which includes a police officer's findings, is typically scrutinized by insurance companies in determining compensation.

To learn how to obtain a copy of your Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report, *visit the Texas Department of Transportation website*.

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TEXAS PEACE OFFICER'S CRASH REPORT CR8-3 (Rev. 0104) Submission of Crash Records: This report may be submitted via the CR55 Web Portal, ele PUBLIC SAFETY, PO DOX 4087, AUSTRY TX 79773-0050. Please see the DPS Instructions to Police for more details reporting these submission methods or look on the FATAL CAV INVOLVED SCH00L BUS RELATED RAILROAD RELATED MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD	a OTRS Website at http://www.torps.state.to.us/briegropect/index.htm.
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The Basics

Police officers record the basics of your traffic accident, such as the **Place Where Crash Occurred; Road Where Crash Occurred; Date of Crash** and whether the crash involved fatalities, a school bus or a hit-and-run driver.

Personal Information

Law enforcement officials use the **Unit Number** boxes to record

driver and vehicle information for each party involved in the accident.

Driver information:

- ~ Name, address and
- phone number
- ~ Driver's license number and status
- ~ Ethnicity and occupation
- ~ Insurance information
- ~ Drug test results
- (if applicable)

Vehicle information:

- ~ Make, model and body style
- ~ License plate number
- ~ Vehicle identification number (VIN)
- ~ Estimated damage

Damages & Charges

Officers record **Damage to Property Other Than Vehicles**, including property owner contact information and estimated damage. In addition, if charges were filed against a party involved in the accident, officers record the specific charges and citation numbers.

PAGE 2

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Passenger / Injury Information

Police officers record occupant information for each party involved in the accident, including seating position, use of safety restraint, vehicle ejection information and injury severity. If a vehicle is towed due to disabling damages, officers make note and record where the vehicle was removed to and by whom.

Fatalities

6

Injuries and fatalities are documented on the accident report, including contact information for each victim and ambulance / hospitalization information.

Narrative / Diagram

The investigating officer or law enforcement official who responded to the accident scene fills out a written **Narrative** and pictorial **Diagram** to describe how and why they believe the accident occurred. In addition, officers list **Factors and Conditions** that caused the accident in sequential order, as well as the presence of traffic controls, roadway conditions and weather conditions at the time of the crash.

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CRE-3C (Rev. 01/06) COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICI	LE ENFORCEMENT SUPPLEMENT TO THE TEXAS PEACE OFFICER'S CRASH REPORT OUS MATERIAL 9 OR MORE PASSENGER CAPACITY (DRIVER INCLUDED)						
CF 7 MATION	LOC/						
1. 2. CITY OR TOWN	0R//						
3. ROAD ON WHICH CRASH OCCURRED	RET OR HOAD NAME ROUTE/ ROADWAY ACCESS						
	1-FULL ACCESS CONTROL						
4. DATE OF CRASH DATE	5. HOUR PM 2-PARTIAL ACCESS 3-NO ACCESS						
DRIVER INFORMATION	1-A 4-D 2-B 5-M						
6. NAME	7. DRIVER LICENSE CLASS 3-C 6-UNK						
CARRIER INFORMATION 8. VEHICLE OPERATION INTERSTATE COMMERCE	STATE COMMERCE OVERNMENT PERSONAL						
9. CARRIER'S CORPORATE NAME							
10. CARRIER'S PRIMARY ADDRESS	GTY 5341 39						
11. CARRIER ID TYPE CICC US DOT TX00T	OTHER NONE 12. CARRIER ID NUMBER						
MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION							
	IS. GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING (GVWR)						
 VEHICLE TYPE PASSENGER CAR (ONLY IF VEHICLE DISPLAYS HM PLACAR 	IDS) 7-TRUCK TRAILER						
1-PASSENGER CAR (ONLY IF VEHICLE DISPLAYS HM PLACARDS) 2-LIGHT TRUCK (ONLY IF VEHICLE DISPLAYS HM PLACARDS) 3-BUS (SEATS FOR 9-15 PEOPLE, INCLUDING DRIVER) 4-BUS (SEATS FOR >15 PEOPLE, INCLUDING DRIVER) 10-TRACTOR/DOUBLE TRAILER							
5-SINGLE UNIT TRUCK (2 AXLES, 6 TIRES) 6-SINGLE UNIT TRUCK (3 OR MORE AXLES)	11-TFACTOR/TRIPLE TRAILER 99-UNKNOWN HEAVY TRUCK OVER 10,000 LBS. (CANNOT CLASSIFY)						
17. CARGO BODY STYLE 1-BUS (SEATS FOR 9-15 PEOPLE, INCLUDING DRIVER) 2-BUS (SEATS FOR >15 PEOPLE, INCLUDING DRIVER) 3-VAN/ENCLOSED BOX 4-CARGO TANK 5-FLATBED 6-DUMP							
18. HAZARDOUS MATERIAL	YES down would rule now						
TRANSPORTING PLACARDABLE HAZARDOUS MATERIAL	HAZARDOUS MATERIAL RELEASED OR SPILLED NO THE VEHICLE FUEL TANK						
1 DIGIT CLASS# 4 DIGIT ID#							
19. LICENSE PLATE 20. GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING (GVWR) TRAILER TYPE 2-SEMI TRAILER 2-SEMI TRAILER 2-SEMI TRAILER 3-POLE TRAILER 3-POLE TRAILER							
TRAILER NUMBER 2 INFORMATION TRAILER TYPE							
21. LICENSE PLATE 22. GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING (GVWR) 1-FULL TRALER REGISTERED GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT (RGVW) 2-SEWI TRALER 3-POLE TRALER							
23. SEQUENCES OF EVENTS - UNIT	24. TOTAL NUMBER OF AXLES						
1-NONCOLLISION: RAN OFF ROAD 12-COLLISION INVOLVING PEDESTRIAN 25, TOTAL NUMBER OF TIRES							
2-NONCOLLISION: JACKKNIFE 13-COLLISION INVOLVING MOTOR VEHICLE IN TRANSPORT 3-NONCOLLISION: OVERTURN (ROLLOVER) 14-COLLISION INVOLVING PARKED MOTOR VEHICLE							
4-NONCOLLISION: DOWNHILL RUNAWAY 15-COLLISION INVOLVING TRAIN 5-NONCOLLISION: CARGO LOSS OR SHIFT 16-COLLISION INVOLVING PEDALCYCLE							
6-NONCOLLISION: EXPLOSION OR FIRE 17-COLLISION INVOLVING AN ANIMAL 7-NONCOLLISION: SEPARATION OF UNITS 18-COLLISION INVOLVING A FIXED OBJECT							
8-NONCOLLISION: CROSS MEDIAN/CENTERLINE 19-COLLISION WITH WORK ZONE MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT							
9-NONCOLLISION: EQUIPMENT FAILURE 20-COLLISION WITH OTHER MOVABLE OBJECT 10-NONCOLLISION: OTHER 21-COLLISION WITH UNKNOWN MOVABLE OBJECT 14 NONCOLLISION: UNKNOWN							
11-NONCOLLISION: UNKNOWN 98-OTHER							
26. OFFICER'S PRINTED NAME	DEPT DATE						

Additional Information

If a commercial vehicle (such as a truck or bus) is involved in an accident, additional information is collected by law enforcement officials. Information collected on truck accidents includes:

- ~ Crash location and date
- ~ Driver name and license class
- ~ Carrier information
- ~ Vehicle type
- ~ Body style
- ~ Sequence of events

Authorities also can conduct an inspection of the truck or bus for out-of-service violations. An investigation may include looking at driver logs, driver fatigue and any Department of Transportation violations related to the maintenance of the truck or bus.

PAGE 4

GENERAL A separate commercial supplement is to be completed on gach commercial motor vehicle involved in a motor vehicle crash. This supplement(s) must be attached to the basic peace officer's crash report. A commercial motor vehicle for supplemental reporting is defined as: Any motor vehicle or towed vehicle with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) or a Registered Gross Vehicle Weight (RGVW), whichever is 1. greater, of 10,001 lbs, or more, or any combination of vehicles where the Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR) or the total RGVW of the combination is 10,001 lbs. or more 1.1 GVWR and RGVW are both defined as the weight of the fully equipped vehicle plus its net carrying capacity. The GCWR is the combined weight rating of a motor vehicle and a towed unit(s). On occasion, the GVWR and the RGVW will differ. In those situations, the greater weight value will be used to determine if this form must be completed. 1.2 The GVWR of a motor vehicle normally can be found on an information plate on the driver's door or door post. The GVWR of a trailer normally can be found on an information plate near the front left portion of the trailer. If the vehicle does not have an information plate or it is illegible, use RGVW. For combination or token trailers, see 1.6 below. 1.3 On vehicles registered in Texas, the RGVW is shown on the registration receipt under "gross weight." Commercial motor vehicles are required to carry the registration receipt. 1.4 In the event the registration receipt is not available, RGVW can normally be obtained by a complete registration check. Exception: If the vehicle has exempt license plates (i.e. owned by a government entity) no RGVW will be shown. In those instances, GVWR must be used. 1.5 If GVWR is used to determine the need to complete this supplement, GVWR for the motor vehicle and each trailer(s) must be obtained and shown in the appropriate blank(s). 1.6 If RGVW is used to determine the need to complete this supplement, the RGVW should be obtained for each motor vehicle and trailer in the combination unless the combination is registered as a combination/token vehicle or as an apportioned vehicle. In those situations the license plates will indicate combination/token or apportioned. If the vehicle is registered as a combination/token or apportioned vehicle, the entire registered gross weight will be shown on the power unit and the trailer will not carry a RGVW. In those instances, show the RGVW of the combination in the power unit and show zero (0) on the trailer(s). 1.7 RGVW for out-of-state vehicles and trailer(s) may be obtained from registration receipts issued by the licensing state, temporary permits, cab cards or other documents or as in 1.4 above. 2. Any bus, which shall include every motor vehicle with a seating capacity of nine (9) or more passengers (including the driver) and used for the transportation of persons. The seating capacity of a bus (excluding school buses) shall be determined by allowing one (1) passenger for each sixteen (16) inches of seat space. The seating capacity of a school bus shall be determined by allowing one (1) passenger for each thirteen (13) inches of seat space. 3. Any motor vehicle hauling hazardous materials which is required to be placarded under the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act. INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF FORM CRB-3C Detailed instructions for completion of this supplement are included in the Instructions to Police for Reporting Crashes. Check Boxes (Top of Report) Check appropriate box indicating if the vehicle was over 10,001 pounds, Hazardous Material(s), or 9 or more passenger capacity (driver included). More than one box may be checked. Roadway Access- Code the access control characteristics which best describes the roadway which the vehicle was traveling on at the time of the crash. Full Access Control- is an expressway or freeway where the only means of entry to or exit from the roadway is by ramps connecting to other streets or highways. No Access Control- is a street or highway where driveways provide access to and egress from adjacent properties and where cross streets intersect at a grade. Partial Access Control- is a street or highway which does not clearly fit the above definitions. CRASH INFORMATION (Items 1-5) Complete the information in this section exactly as shown on the basic report (CRB-3). DRIVER INFORMATION (Items 6-7) Complete items 6 and 7 exactly as shown on the basic report (CRB-3). CARRIER INFORMATION (Items 8-12) Indicate whether the operation of the commercial motor vehicle at the time of this crash is defined as an interstate, intrastate, government or personal operation. An interstate operation is one where the transportation of the property originated in one state or country and passed through or terminated in another state or country. An intrastate operation is one where the transportation of the property did not cross a state or international boundary. The bill of lading origin and destination information may be one source available to make this determination. Government and Personal use will be determined through investigation. Indicate the Carrier's corporate name and primary business address in items 9 and 10. The Carrier is defined as the entity responsible for the operation of the vehicle at the time of the crash. This may be the actual owner of the vehicle or the lessee. The information should match Owner/Lessee shown on the CRB-3. Show the type of carrier identification by checking the appropriate box in item 11. Show the ID number in item 12, if applicable. MOTOR VEHICLE INFORMATION (Items 13-18) Enter the unit number from the CRB-3 for this motor vehicle in item 13. Show the registration year, state and number in item 14. Enter the GVWR and RGVW as applicable in item 15. Indicate which, GVWR or RGVW, by checking the appropriate box. Indicate the appropriate number in the box for Vehicle Type in item 16. Indicate the appropriate number in the box for Cargo Body Style in item 17. Indicate by checking the appropriate box in item 18 whether this vehicle is hauling hazardous material(s). If yes, enter the class and ID numbers of the hazardous material(s) being transported. Indicate by checking the appropriate box whether hazardous materials were released (spilled, discharged, etc.) The class and ID numbers should be obtained from the bill of lading or shipping papers. If unavailable, the class and ID numbers may be taken from the placard. The class may be located in the lower corner of the diamond shaped placard. The ID numbers may be located on the placard or on an orange label near the placard. (REFER TO DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS). TRAILER NUMBER 1 & 2 INFORMATION (Item 19-22) If the commercial motor vehicle reported on this supplement is towing one trailer, complete trailer number 1 section only. If towing 2 trailers, complete both trailer number 1 and 2 sections. Indicate the registration year, state, and number in item 19, and if applicable item 21. Show the GVWR or RGVW in item 20 and, if applicable, item 22. Indicate which, GVWR or RGVW by checking the appropriate box. Indicate the appropriate number in the box for Trailer Type (item 20, and if applicable, item 22). Indicate Sequence of Events (Item 23). Indicate the order and type of crash events which occurred involving this vehicle. Indicate the Total Number of Axies (Item 24). Indicate the total number of axies on the motor vehicle. (Do not include trailer axies) Indicate the Total Number of Tires (Item 25). Indicate the total number of tires on the motor vehicle. (Do not include trailer tires) The person completing this supplement should print name, show department and the date this supplement was prepared in item 26.

If you have questions about your accident report, or if you're looking for more information about what to do after a car accident, contact



We can help you interpret your report, free of charge.

Call (866) 408-0940 to schedule a free case evaluation.