



BARATTA, RUSSELL & BARATTA
Aggressive Advocates and Trusted Advisors

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Dear Friends:

Presently, everyone knows to contact the police when involved in a motor vehicle accident. The police can perform an investigation, take statements from witnesses, document property damage, help if anyone is injured and take critical information like the names, addresses, and insurance information of the drivers. As of May 3, 2010, if you are involved in a motor vehicle accident in the City of Philadelphia, the police will not respond to minor automobile accidents in which no one is injured. Therefore, if you are involved in such an accident in Philadelphia, you need to obtain all critical information and file an Accident Report either in person or by telephone. This report will have to be made to the police district in which the accident occurred. Critical information from the other driver should be obtained, which would include that driver's name, address, the make and model of that person's vehicle, whether there were any passengers and those passengers' names, the owner of the vehicle, the insurance information including the name of the insurance company and the policy number. You will need to document your property damage, the other parties' property damage, the exact location of the accident, the position of the vehicles after the accident, and any other important critical facts that would have otherwise been recorded in a police report.

As always, it is helpful to carry a camera in your car. Many cell phones now have cameras. If involved in an accident, regardless of how minor, you should photograph the scene of the accident and persons, vehicles and location involved.

Please see the attached link from the Philadelphia Police Department explaining this new policy.

<http://www.phillypolice.com/news/change-in-how-to-report-auto-accidents-to-police>

Should you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Warmest regards,

Anthony J. Baratta
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