

CHAPTER 14 – MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC

Sec. 14-26. Police Department; accidents and accident reports.

(a) A law enforcement officer or public employee who, in the regular course of duty, investigates a motor vehicle accident resulting in bodily injury, death or damage to the property of any person in excess of one thousand dollars or the issuance of a citation shall complete a written report of the accident as follows:

- (1) Either at the time of and at the scene of the accident or after the accident by collecting information from participants or witnesses.
- (2) Within twenty-four hours after completing the investigation.

(b) Every law enforcement officer or public employee who, in the regular course of duty, investigates a motor vehicle accident that results in damage to the property of any person in an amount of one thousand dollars or less, but that does not result in the issuance of a citation or bodily injury or death, shall complete a portion of the written report of the accident. The portion of the written report shall:

- (1) Be completed either at the time of and at the scene of the accident or after the accident by collecting information from participants or witnesses.
- (2) Be completed within twenty-four hours after completing the investigation.
- (3) Include the following minimum information:
 - a. The time, day, month and year of the accident.
 - b. Information adequate to identify the location of the accident.
 - c. Identifying information for all involved parties and witnesses, including name, age, sex, address, telephone number, vehicle ownership and registration and proof of insurance.
 - d. A narrative description of the facts of the accident, a simple diagram of the scene of the accident and the investigating officer's name, agency and identification number.

(c) The agency employing the officer or public employee:

- (1) Shall not allow a person to examine the accident report or any related investigation report or a reproduction of the accident report or a related investigation report if the request is for a commercial solicitation purpose.
- (2) May require a person requesting the accident or related investigative report to state under penalty of perjury that the report is not examined or copied for a commercial solicitation purpose.
- (3) May retain the original report.

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- (4) Shall maintain an electronic copy of the original report if the agency elects not to retain the original report pursuant to paragraph 3 of this subsection.
- (5) Shall immediately forward a copy of the report to the department for its use.

(d) The department may place notes, date stamps, identifying numbers, marks or other information on the copies as needed, if they do not alter the original information reported by the investigating officer or public employee.

(e) For the purposes of this section, “commercial solicitation purpose” means a request for an accident report if there is neither:

- (1) A relationship between the person or the principal of the person requesting the accident report and any party involved in the accident.
- (2) A reason for the person to request the report other than for the purposes of soliciting a business or commercial relationship.

State law reference(s) -- Accidents and accident reports, A.R.S. § 28-661 et seq.

(Code 1977, §§6-1-3--6-1-5)\

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