



DMV Accident Report: Did you know?

New York Vehicle and Transportation Law (Article 22, 605) requires that you contact the Department of Motor Vehicles when involved in an accident. This law was enacted in 1960 and has been generally disregarded since then. Be sure to follow through, regardless of whether a police report was filed. According to this law you are still responsible to report the accident to the DMV.

Recently, Misaskim was involved in a situation where an individual involved in an accident was cited for not reporting to the DMV, as required by this law.

Vehicle and Traffic Laws of New York

Article 22

Report required upon accident.

(a) 1. Every person operating a motor vehicle, except a police officer... if a report has been filed by the owner of such vehicle, which is in any manner involved in an accident, anywhere within the boundaries of this state, in which any person is killed or injured, or in which damage to the property of any one person, including himself, in excess of one thousand dollars is sustained, shall within ten days after such accident, report the matter in writing to the commissioner [Department of Motor Vehicles]. If such operator or chauffeur be physically incapable of making such report and there be another participant in the accident not incapacitated, such participant shall make such report within ten days after such accident.

If the operator or chauffeur involved in such accident be unable to make such report, the owner of the motor vehicle involved in such accident, if such owner be not involved in such accident or incapacitated, shall within ten days after he learns of the fact of such accident report the matter to the commissioner together with such information as may have come to his knowledge relating to such accident. Every such operator or chauffeur of a motor vehicle, or participant in any such accident, or owner of the motor vehicle involved in any such accident, shall make such other and additional reports as the commissioner shall require.

2. Failure to report an accident as herein provided or failure to give correctly the information required of him by the commissioner in connection with such report shall be a misdemeanor and shall constitute a ground for suspension or revocation of the operator's (or chauffeur's) license or all certificates of registration for any motor vehicle, or of both, of the person failing to make such report as herein required. In addition, the commissioner may temporarily suspend the driver's license or permit or certificate of registration of the motor vehicle involved in the accident, or of both, of the person failing to report an accident within the period prescribed in paragraph one of this subdivision, until such report has been filed. However, no suspension or a revocation shall be made of a license or certificate of registration of any police officer, correction officer, or firefighter involved in an accident while on duty for failure to report such accident within ten days thereof if a report has been filed by the owner of such vehicle.

3. In the case of a non-resident the failure to report an accident as herein provided shall constitute ground for suspension or revocation of his privileges of operating a motor vehicle in this state and of the operation within this state of any motor vehicle owned by him.