

# How to read the New York Police Accident Report

(FORM MV-104A)

In the first section, you'll find an overview of the accident: date, time, location, number of vehicles, and number of people injured or killed.

On the left and right, information is listed for the vehicle(s) involved in the accident. Note that Vehicle 1 is always a motor vehicle, while the Vehicle 2 section can be used for a vehicle, cyclist or pedestrian.

The next section documents any tickets and traffic law violations – this can help to establish liability but note that not every type of negligence is a violation of a specific traffic law.

The vehicle damage codes indicate where each vehicle was struck and where the most damage was done. This information can also affect liability for injuries – for instance, if there was heavy damage to the passenger side, there are likely also substantial injuries to someone seated on that side.

Each vehicle section starts with the name and contact information of the operator.

The owner's name and address are listed next (this can be left blank if the "vehicle" is a pedestrian).

The officer circles or draws a diagram showing how the accident happened. We look at this section to anticipate whether liability, damages, or both are likely to be contested.

The officer notes where the accident occurred and then writes any additional notes in the accident description section. Read through this carefully, as it's often used for information that doesn't fit elsewhere in the report.

The codes used in the final section indicate where each person involved in the accident was seated, whether safety equipment was used, and how severe their injuries were. Note that not all injuries are immediately obvious, so this isn't the final word.



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