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Anatomy of a Police Report

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Police reports are often the
beginning of your case, not
the end.

2

Let's discuss

- What I think when I look at a police report.
- How we use what we learn in trial.

3

Initial Steps

- Transportation code violations:
 - exiting a private drive;
 - unsafe speed;
 - stop sign; and,
 - traffic signal.
- Is the investigating officer in a traffic or transportation unit?

4

Initial Steps

- Spoken language of drivers, witnesses, and officers.
- Notes on witnesses.
- Injury severity might matter (consider changes to reporting guidelines).

5

Initial Steps

- Correct geographical information listed?
 - Highway?
 - Address?
 - County?
 - County line splits?
 - Unincorporated area?
 - Companies sharing space?

6

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First appeared as part of the conference materials for the
2024 The Car Crash Seminar session
"Anatomy of a Police Report"