

# Recognizing Products Liability Claims in Motor Vehicle Accidents

The University of Texas School of Law | 2022 Car Crash Seminar

Muhammad S. Aziz



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## Types of Claims

- Manufacturing Defect
- Design Defect
- Failure to Warn

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## Recognizing Potential Cases

- Minor Collision + Catastrophic Injury
- Multiple Occupants + Only One Seriously Injured
- Restrained Occupants + Seriously Injured or Ejected
- Restrained Occupants + Partial Ejection

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## Types of Defects

- Defective Airbag
  - Non-Deployment
  - Inadvertent Deployment
- Defective Pretensioner
- Defective Air Brake Compressor
- Defective Rear Seat Restraint System

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Case Study  
No. 1

# Defective Airbag

## Non-Deployment of Side Curtain Airbag

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Investigator's Narrative Opinion of What Happened  
(Attach Additional Sheets If Necessary)

Driver of Unit 2 was traveling Westbound in the #2 lane in the 9100 block of W. Fairmont Pkwy approaching the intersection (9000 block of W. Fairmont Pkwy). Driver of Unit 1 was traveling Eastbound in the turn only lane in the 8900 block of W. Fairmont Pkwy to travel Northbound onto Canada Rd. Driver of Unit 2 signal light was green and driver of Unit 1 signal light turned red. Unit 1 disregarded the red light and struck Unit 2 on the front left side. Unit 2 vehicle then spun around and struck the concrete light pole on the left driver side before coming to a rest. Officer did not observe any damage to the light pole. Unit 1 at fault.

Event 1

Event 2

The diagram illustrates the intersection of 8900 W Fairmont PKWY, 9100 W Fairmont PKWY, and 3900 CANADA RD. Unit 1 is shown in the turn lane from the eastbound side, and Unit 2 is shown in the westbound lane. Arrows indicate the direction of travel and the path of Unit 2 after the collision. A 'Genoa Red Bluff' is also indicated on the right side of the intersection.

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