

# JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION INVESTIGATIONS

Policy: 10-4

Effective: 01-01-09

Revised: 05-02-19

**PURPOSE:** To give sworn personnel guidelines on when and how to investigate motor vehicle collisions.

**POLICY:** This Department has as one of its goals and objectives the reduction of motor vehicle collisions. To accomplish this, the Department performs a variety of traffic collision investigation functions including providing emergency service to the injured, protecting the collision scene, conducting collision investigations and follow-ups, preparing reports and taking proper enforcement action relative to incidents. The purpose of investigation is to properly determine the causative factors involved in an automobile crash and utilize these factors to develop enforcement that will reduce the incidence of collisions. Collision reports taken are utilized by the Arkansas State Police and Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department at the state level and by this Department at the local level to study the frequency of crashes at a given location and time, the causes, the conditions that exist at the time, etc. The reports are also used by this Department to develop selective enforcement programs and to promote street and highway safety.

### PROCEDURES:

#### COLLISION REPORT AND INVESTIGATION GENERAL

The following rules shall apply to all probationary and sworn employees:

- A. Arkansas Code requirements concerning the reporting of traffic collisions include:
  1. Drivers involved in a traffic collision that results in injury or death of a person or property damage in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) will report it to the nearest law enforcement agency immediately. (Ref. A.C.A. §27-53-202)
  2. An officer investigating a collision will do so with all promptness and the report shall be forwarded to the Arkansas State Police within five (5) days of the completion of the investigation. (Ref. A.C.A. §27-53-303(c))
- B. The terminology used in the above laws requires "reports of collisions". For our purposes, a report is made by a law enforcement officer who has investigated a collision at the scene or elsewhere, the length, duration and depth of investigative effort being that time necessary to thoroughly and properly investigate the collision.
- C. Generally, the Jacksonville Police Department will investigate all collisions that occur within the city limits, with the exception of collisions along US Highway 67/167, which are generally investigated by the Arkansas State Police. Officers will provide assistance to ASP when needed.
- D. Officers will respond "Code 3" to vehicle collisions reported to have injuries or fatalities. For all other vehicle collisions, officers will respond "Code 1."
- E. A law enforcement officer will be assigned and respond to, and prepare an Arkansas Motor Vehicle Crash Report involving any of the following:
  1. Death or injury.
  2. Property damage in excess of the reportable amount established by the Legislature.
  3. Hit and run.
  4. Impairment due to alcohol and drugs.
  5. Hazardous materials.
  6. Any collision involving public property or vehicles.