

JOINT EFFORT NEWS

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Colorado Motor Vehicle Insurance : Did you Know?

Inspirations:

- ♣ If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: If we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome. –Anne Bradstreet
- ♣ Genius is one per cent inspiration and ninety-nine per cent perspiration. – Thomas Edison
- ♣ I'm a great believer in luck and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it. – Thomas Jefferson
- ♣ The greatest discovery of our generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind. As you think, so shall you be. – William James
- ♣ When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us. – Helen Keller

Each week we see patients who have been involved in auto accidents. These accidents can have devastating consequences. In addition to the pain and suffering, you may be faced with enormous medical bills. It is important that you understand the law and what kind of medical benefits you have.

As of July 1, 2003, Colorado is no longer a **(1)no fault** state. Colorado now utilizes a **(2)tort system**. With the tort system, the driver at fault for the accident is responsible for the medical claims of the injured parties. In order for these medical claims to be paid by auto insurance the driver must carry medical payment coverage, commonly called **(3) med-pay**. Med-pay is additional coverage that may be purchased when buying an auto policy. When auto insurance policies are sold, however, the importance of med-pay coverage is not always emphasized.

Lack of med-pay causes some concerns. Without med-pay coverage, all injured parties must rely on health insurance (if available) to cover medical claims. Deductibles and co-payments will have to be paid, and many health policies have annual limits on rehabilitation services.

An injured person who does not have health insurance may need to file a **(4) liability claim** against the at-fault driver. When a liability claim is filed, an attorney's services are usually needed. With no med-pay coverage or health insurance paying for ongoing medical care, the injured party can sign a **(5) lien** for the cost of medical services. After all medical care has been completed, a settlement will be offered by the driver's insurance carrier. Proceeds from the settlement are then used to pay medical providers and attorneys. Because it can take a year or longer to settle a liability claim, some medical providers are unable to accept liens. Joint Effort is here to help make your auto injury experience as painless as possible. We do accept ALL auto insurance plans and most health insurance plans. We do not accept liens.

If you have any additional questions about how we can help you **contact us at : 2835 Dublin Blvd (719) 533-1318 or 2989 Broadmoor Valley Rd. (719) 527-9331**

For more info. on "tort system" check out Ken Jaray at www.KenJaray.com, or The Division of Insurance State of Colorado at www.dora.state.co.us.

Auto Insurance Terms you should know:

- (1) No-fault:** Auto insurance prior to July 1, 2003, covered injuries whether the insured person was at fault or not the insured person was at fault.
- (2) Tort system:** A determination of fault in an automobile accident is made. The party at fault must pay medical and rehabilitation expenses for the injured party, as well as property damage.
- (3) Med-pay:** Medical benefits on your auto insurance to cover medical expenses incurred for you, your passengers or the other driver and passengers (up to your policy limits).
- (4) Liability claim:** A legally bound obligation to make good on any loss or damage that occurs. (the action of taking responsibility)
- (5) Lien:** A signed agreement that payment will be made by you or your attorney at the time of your settlement.