



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Jamey Tesler, Acting Secretary & CEO
Colleen Ogilvie, Acting Registrar



March 10, 2021

Dear Chief/Colonel/Commissioner,

I am writing to request your assistance in helping the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) meet its legal obligation to issue an immediate license suspension or revocation—Fatal Accident Preliminary (FAP)— when notified of a fatal motor vehicle accident that is currently under investigation. The RMV is also obligated to suspend or revoke the learner's permit, license, or right to operate for any convictions of vehicular homicide or manslaughter by motor vehicle. The RMV relies on state and local senior law enforcement agency representatives as its primary source of notification for fatal accidents occurring within the limits of his or her city, town, or jurisdiction.

For your reference, Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90 Section 29 requires police departments to promptly notify the RMV of any fatal accident or accident involving serious injury occurring within the department's jurisdiction within fifteen days, but preferably **within 24 hours**, through the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS). Notification shall include the particulars of the accident and every effort should be made to include the name(s) of the driver(s) involved to ensure timely action on the part of the RMV to protect the safety of the travelling public. The critical impact on public safety of consistent, immediate, and complete reporting of fatal accidents by law enforcement to the RMV should not be underestimated. In the absence of proper notification, drivers who may pose an immediate threat to others can continue to operate, allowing the risk of another accident or loss of life.

The RMV extends its support to law enforcement agencies to achieve compliance with the notification requirement under M.G.L. c. 90 Sec 29. If you have any questions about the contents of this letter or how to notify the RMV of a fatal accident, please do not hesitate to contact:

Michael DiBenedetto, Motor Vehicle Homicide Coordinator
MassDOT/RMV/ESU
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2310
Boston, MA 02116
Direct line: 857-368-8217
Email: michael.dibenedetto@dot.state.ma.us

Additionally, please see attached instructions for issuing a fatal accident notification, for your reference. Thank you for your partnership in continually working to ensure that our Massachusetts roadways remain safe.

Respectfully,

Daniel Florent

Deputy Registrar for Safety
Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles