



MEDIA RELEASE

LAUNCH OF THE MOTOR ACCIDENT GUIDE ON 23 APRIL 2014 BY THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE SUNDARESH MENON

Ravi was driving towards a cross-junction. The traffic lights were green in his favour and he proceeded to go straight. In a split second, a lorry, coming from the opposite direction, turned right at the junction and collided into the right side of Ravi's car. Debris and glass were scattered across the road. Passing motorists stopped to help the drivers ...

The last thing Christopher remembers is cycling across a zebra crossing. When he awoke, he found himself in a hospital. A van, whilst making a left turn at the slip road, had knocked into Christopher when he was cycling across the road. Eyewitnesses reported that the driver of the van had made the turn without stopping. Christopher was out cold for three hours and suffered rib fractures from the accident ...

1 Although the characters in the above scenarios are fictitious, the anecdotes are based on actual motor accidents. In view of the increase in the total motor vehicle population and number of motor accidents in Singapore¹, the State Courts have produced a user-friendly *Motor Accident Guide* (or *MAG* for short) which the parties involved in a motor accident can refer to, for the guidelines which the Courts regularly use to assess parties' liability in motor accidents. Contributed by Judges from the Civil Justice Division, the *MAG* will help the parties involved to better negotiate the terms of settlement of personal injury or property damage claims arising from such accidents, thus enhancing justice for the people of Singapore.

2 The *MAG* will be officially launched by The Honourable the Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon on Wednesday, 23 April 2014 at 5 pm at the State Courts Atrium. Members of the Bar, representatives from The Law Society of Singapore, the Monetary Authority of Singapore, Land Transport Authority of Singapore, General Insurance Association of Singapore, Ministry of Transport, Consumers Association of Singapore and Financial Industry Disputes Resolution Centre Ltd will also attend the book launch.

¹ From the findings compiled by the Traffic Police Department, more than 12,000 vehicles were involved in fatal and injury road traffic accidents in 2012. Statistics compiled by the Land Transport Authority show that the total motor vehicle population in Singapore has steadily increased by around 36.9% over the last decade, from 708,370 in 2001 to 969,910 in 2012.

3 Copies of the *MAG* will be available for sale at the State Courts Information Counter at \$15 (incl. GST) per copy from 24 April 2014.

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About the *Motor Accident Guide*

“What do I do now?”

“What steps should I take?”

“Who should I call or notify? Do I need to make a report?”

“What do I say to the other people involved in the accident?”

“Who was at fault? Am I partly to blame for the accident?”

Such questions are mostly likely to be racing through the mind of someone who has just met with a motor accident.

The *Motor Accident Guide (MAG)*, published by the State Courts of Singapore, provides the general public and others involved in motor accident claims, e.g. insurers, vehicle repair workshops and lawyers, with useful information so that they will have a better opportunity to resolve their accident claim cases amicably and avoid incurring litigation expenses. The *MAG* contains a range of liability indications for a series of different motor accident scenarios, including those involving motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and passengers. Each motor accident scenario is complemented by simple text, pictures and diagrams. The ranges with respect to liability are based on actual awards given in locally decided cases, where applicable. Quick tips on what to do when one is involved in an accident are available in the *MAG*. The possible defences that one may raise when defending a claim are also referred to in the *MAG*.

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