

# **SNOHOMISH COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE INVESTIGATIVE CHECKLIST**

## **HIT AND RUN – INJURY/DEATH**

**RCW 46.52.020**

### **ELEMENTS**

1. The suspect drove a vehicle which was involved in an accident; AND
2. The accident resulted in “significant” injury or death to another person; AND
3. The suspect knew he/she had been involved in the accident; AND
4. a) the suspect did not immediately stop the vehicle at the scene of the accident or as close thereto as possible; OR  
b) the suspect did not remain at the scene of the accident until all of the following requirements were fulfilled:
  - i) provide name, address, insurance company, insurance policy number, and vehicle license number to the injured person or to an occupant of the other vehicle involved in the collision or to a person attending such vehicle, and
  - ii) exhibit driver’s license to the injured person or to an occupant of the other vehicle involved in the collision or to a person attending such vehicle, and
  - iii) render reasonable assistance to any person injured in the accident.

### **SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS**

- [ ] 1. Provide Washington State Accident report.
- [ ] 2. Obtain autopsy reports on deceased victim(s).
- [ ] 3. Obtain medical reports from injured victim(s), if injuries may be “significant”: more than a minor bruise or cut or sore neck .
- [ ] 4. If proving that the suspect’s vehicle was involved in the collision is an issue:
  - a. Photograph damage to victim’s vehicle and to suspect’s vehicle, as well as tire marks and gouge marks on the roadway.
  - b. Consider obtaining search warrant to examine and document damage, paint transfer, etc.
- [ ] 5. Obtain statements from suspect and from each passenger, or at least, document your attempts to obtain them.
  - a. If proving that the suspect was the driver is an issue, or if suspect’s ability to carry out his/her duties at the scene is an issue, request suspect’s consent for release of medical records.
  - b. Identify seat position of all occupants of the suspect vehicle.
  - c. Document whether occupants in the suspect vehicle were aware that they had been involved in an accident.
- [ ] 6. If proving who was driving is an issue:
  - a. Statements from fire and EMTs re who was in the driver’s seat and any admissions re

driving.

- b. Consider consulting with collision reconstructionist and medical examiner about occupant kinematics: compare injury pattern with contact damage and marks inside the vehicle.
- c. Document driver's seat position while vehicle still at scene.
- d. Obtain certified copy of vehicle registration, if vehicle owned by suspect.
- e. If physical evidence of the driver appears to be in the suspect vehicle, consider seizing suspect's clothing/shoes during search incident to arrest and/or obtaining control hair/blood samples from the suspect by consent or by search warrant. Apply for search warrant to collect, for example, cloth transfers, body fluids, hair, fingerprints, and papers of occupancy, etc. in/on the suspect vehicle, as well as to measure the driver's seat distance from the steering wheel.
- f. Photograph injuries to suspect and suspect's passengers.

[ ] 7. Obtain ADR for suspect.