



PERSONAL

MORRIS & REYNOLDS INSURANCE PRESENTS

EDITION TWO: 2010

INSURANCE PROTECTION

UNINSURED MOTORISTS



According to the Insurance Information Institute, **23% of the registered vehicles in Florida have no insurance what-so-ever and by some estimates 50% of those in South Florida are uninsured.** These percentages illustrate the importance of carrying adequate uninsured motorist coverage. To help illustrate how this coverage works we are pleased to offer a few examples as follows:

UNINSURED MOTORISTS INSURANCE

Uninsured Motorists protection helps in the event you suffer bodily injury from an; (1) uninsured driver; (2) an under-insured driver; (3) a driver who leaves the scene (hit and run); or (4) where the other driver's insurance company denies the claim.

Uninsured motorists is often used for medical bills, lost wages (disability), death as well as pain and suffering and loss of consortium type claims.

Florida law requires that a motor vehicle liability policy (including a personal, business, motor home, motorcycle, some recreational vehicle, and other motor vehicles) be issued with stacked Uninsured Motorists coverage equal to bodily injury) limits. You then have the choice to a lower limit, reject the coverage and/or elect coverage on a non-stacked basis. Any of these three choices requires a signature by a *named insured* on a form approved by the Office of Insurance Regulation.

The following examples illustrate the importance of carrying uninsured motorist coverage as well as considering the limits and structure that is best for you and the exposures you face.

EXAMPLE #1:

Juan Suarez carried a personal auto policy covering several automobiles and he selected non-stacked uninsured coverage Juan signed the appropriate form and the insurer issued the policy with the non-stacked coverage that was requested. Juan also owned a motorcycle and to lower his premium on its policy he rejected uninsured motorists by signing the required form.

Juan was tragically killed while riding his motorcycle, hit by a vehicle that had no liability coverage. Both the auto and motorcycle insurer correctly denied the claim for uninsured motorists because while the auto policy included coverage it did not include the bike and the motorcycle policy excluded the coverage based on the form he signed.

EXAMPLE #2:

Jenny Jones purchased a Business Auto Policy for her corporately-owned vehicles. She selected an uninsured motorist limit that was less than her bodily injury limits of liability. The required form was properly signed. Ms. Jones was sadly killed in an accident and her family was disappointed to learn that her uninsured coverage was less than her liability insurance.

EXAMPLE #3:

Jack Jackson was co-owner of a business. Jack and his spouse, Jill, were in a company car and were injured by someone who had no liability coverage. Another corporate officer had properly signed the uninsured motorists form rejecting coverage on the business policy and did so to reduce their

business premium. Jack and Jill sued their insurer but lost the lawsuit based on the signed form and decisions made by their business to carry a lower limit of coverage.

SUMMARY

Not only do the large percentages of uninsured motorists in our state and region illustrate why this coverage is important, it is equally critical to carry adequate limits and to have coverage structured as broadly as possible. It is our suggestion that you carry the highest limits of uninsured motorists that are available, that you carry 'stacked' coverage whenever possible, and that you carry such coverage on any vehicle you operate.

MORRIS & REYNOLDS INSURANCE



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This outline is a brief summary of some basic auto coverages. Please review the policy wording for all terms, conditions and exclusions.



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