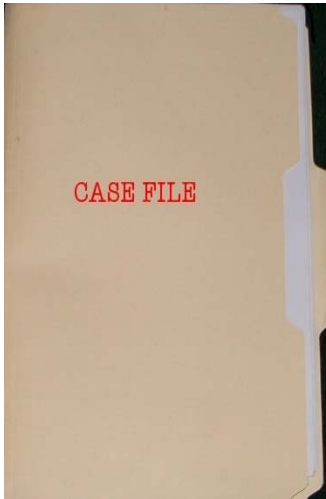




PETERSBURG VA TRAFFIC LAWYER

DISCLAIMER: CASE RESULTS DEPEND ON A VARIETY OF FACTORS UNIQUE TO EACH CASE. THEY DO NOT GUARANTEE OR PREDICT A SIMILAR RESULT IN ANY FUTURE CASE

Traffic Accident charges in Petersburg VA DISMISSED



Riley & Wells Attorneys-At-Law represented a client from nearby Hopewell who was accused of being at fault in a traffic crash in Petersburg VA. The accident involved evidence that our client may have disregarded the red light and caused an accident. The Petersburg police department responded to the crash and were on scene within minutes of the crash. The investigating police officer charged our client with disregarding a red light pursuant to Va. Code 46.2-833 and for failure to maintain liability insurance pursuant to Va. Code 46.2-707. On its face, the case may have seemed minor, but there was a lot at stake.

Our client was a licensed commercial motor vehicle driver (CDL) – which means driving and protecting your driving record is truly your livelihood. What may come as a surprise to many is that a conviction for Va. Code 46.2-707 triggers a fee by the DMV of \$500 and loss of driving privileges until the fee is paid. This law commonly refers to the fact that you must either insure your registered automobile in Virginia with a liability insurance policy or pay an uninsured motorist fee.

In this case, the police officer issued a summons to our client for the insurance allegation because our client was not able to produce a copy of his insurance card at the scene of the accident. Technically, not a violation. Failure to obtain an auto liability policy and failure to pay the uninsured motorist fee is on the other hand a violation. On the trial date, we were able to show the Court that our client was not in violation and the allegation was dropped.

As far as the crash itself, it was critical that we were able to clear our client. A conviction for a motor vehicle crash would severely jeopardize his employment as a commercial motor vehicle driver. In some instances, a skilled traffic lawyer can convince the court to dismiss a case and order that the parties can pursue their civil remedies. This essentially means that the parties can either sue each other or more typically let the insurance companies deal with the issue of who owes who and how much. In this case, we entered a plea of not guilty and convinced the Judge to dismiss the case and to let the parties pursue their civil remedies as their discretion. Our client was happy to have both of his allegations dismissed.

By Mitch Wells 6/28/2016

(804) 673-7111

