

ASSIGNMENT ----- Client Interview Exercise

Walton Taylor is a student at the University. He is 20 years old and is a resident of Mississippi. He was driving his friend's car on 15th street in front of the Bakery building when someone turned from Hackberry onto 15th and ran into his car on the rear passenger side door while he was changing lanes from the middle to the left lane. Taylor's car was able to be driven from the scene.

The other car was being driven by Cameron Quarles, a 33 year old Mom whose baby was in the back seat in a car seat. Three other related adults were in the Quarles car. The car title is in the name of Quarles but the tag is in the name of the former owner (no relation.) Primary damage on Quarles' car is the left front driver's side. Front tire was punctured by impact. Car was towed to Warren Tire. No one was injured.

Tuscaloosa Police investigated the accident and took statements.

Taylor states that Quarles ran a red light and that her car left some skid marks. Quarles states the light was green and that Taylor entered the intersection the same time she did. Taylor says his light had turned yellow before he crossed the intersection but he did have to wait for another car to turn in front of him before he changed lanes.

The adults in Quarles car all state the light was green. All of these witnesses work for Quarles in her coffee shop business.

Taylor wants to make a claim against Quarles because he hit his head and his knee on the steering wheel. He had to go to QuickieDoctor group. He missed class for two days, missed work for a week. His friend has asked him for the money to get his car repaired because he doesn't want to turn it in on his insurance. Taylor doesn't have a car but is listed as an insured driver on his parents' insurance policy. He states that his knee still hurts and that it has kept him from work at the Student Rec Center as a referee for intramural games, one of his part-time jobs. He has paid a deductible to see the doctors at student health and has gotten a letter from his student medical insurance asking if someone else caused his injuries.

ASSIGNMENT:

What questions do we need to know for him? What documents are needed? What benefit would an accident report provide to our initial interview and investigation? How would you initially advise him? If we agree to represent him, what possible claims could he assert? Are there defenses Quarles could use? What questions or issues do we need to determine regarding his doctor visit? What about car insurance? Health insurance? Who would the parties to the potential lawsuit be? What service of process of issues might arise, if any?

Please submit an outline of your thoughts by email no later than Sunday, January 14th at 5pm. I want an outline of the questions you would ask in an initial client interview. (This is an outline only – don't write a paper!) Twenty to thirty questions or topics. Be prepared to discuss in class on Monday, January 22nd. Let me know if you have any questions.