

Appraiser Blog

Diminished Value Claims in North Carolina: A Complete Guide



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Accidents happen, and when they do, your car's value takes a hit, even after repairs. This is precisely why Diminished Value Claims in North Carolina are so crucial, a topic many car owners in the state might not be fully aware of but could significantly benefit from understanding.



What is Diminished Value?

Diminished value refers to the loss in a vehicle's resale value after it has been involved in an accident and repaired. It's based on the premise that a car with an accident history, despite being fully repaired, is less valuable on the market compared to one without such a history.

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There are three types of diminished value: immediate diminished value, inherent diminished value, and repair-related diminished value. The most commonly claimed in North Carolina is inherent diminished value, which considers the loss in value resulting from the mere fact that the vehicle has been damaged and repaired.



Before

Fair Market Value
\$49,925

After

Fair Market Value
\$39,940

Vehicle Fair Market Value Before and After Accident

Who Can File a Diminished Value Claim?

In North Carolina, if another driver's mistake leads to an accident that damages your car, you have the right to pursue a diminished value claim. This type of claim seeks compensation from the at-fault driver's insurance for the loss in your vehicle's market value, even after repairs are made.

For your claim to be considered, it's essential that your vehicle has undergone repairs to restore it to its pre-accident condition. Furthermore, you must initiate this claim within a specific timeframe, generally three years from the accident date, to comply with the state's statute of limitations.

This process underscores the importance of acting promptly and knowledgeably to safeguard your investment in your vehicle.

This list includes several circumstances that may disqualify you from making a diminished value claim in North Carolina for your car:

- Your car's market value is low (under \$7,000);
- You've agreed to and signed a liability form;
- The accident resulted in minor damage, generally valued below \$500;
- Your vehicle shows high mileage, exceeding 30,000 miles annually;
- Your car is considered significantly aged (over 10 years);
- Your car's title is marked as salvage or rebuilt;
- Your vehicle has undergone multiple prior accidents with more severe damage;
- Your vehicle was assessed as a total loss;
- The time frame for filing a claim, as dictated by the statute of limitations, has expired.

The Challenge of Calculating Diminished Value Claims in North Carolina

Calculating the diminished value of a vehicle is not straightforward. It involves considering various factors such as the car's age, make and model, pre-accident condition, and the extent of the damages and repairs. Most websites and sources offer a generic overview, but they miss the nuances involved in these calculations, nuances that can significantly impact the outcome of your claim.

How We Can Help

At Diminished Value Carolina, we specialize in vehicle valuation reports for diminished value insurance claims. Our team of experts takes into account all the variables that affect your car's market value post-accident. We offer a free claim review to start, ensuring you understand the potential value of your claim without any upfront cost.

With our expert appraisals, we guide you through the process, aiming to recover the full extent of your car's diminished value. We believe in making this process as transparent and straightforward as possible, supporting you at every step.

Conclusion

Filing a diminished value claim in North Carolina can be a crucial step in recovering the full value of your loss after an accident. Understanding what diminished value is and who is eligible to file a claim is the first step.

However, accurately calculating and successfully claiming this loss requires expertise. That's where Diminished Value Carolina comes in, offering professional, detailed appraisals tailored to your situation. Have you explored the potential of a diminished value claim for your vehicle yet?