

## ATTORNEY DIMINISHED VALUE CLAIM CONTACT REQUEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date of Accident*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Body Shop*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Year/Make/Model/Trim Level of Vehicle*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Approximate Mileage*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Today's Date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Attorney/Firm*

This person/business is interested in informing and protecting its clients' rights. To that end, you are being presented with this document.

Diminished value is the lost market value that can occur when a vehicle is damaged. Even though a vehicle is repaired properly, it may have lost value due to negative market factors stemming from the accident.

If you are interested in discussing diminished value with Forrest Law and learning more about what rights you may have to recover additional funds, please fill out the section below. Your information will only be used for this initial contact and for no other purpose.

For more information on diminished value, please visit Forrest Law's diminished value area on its website at [forrestlegal.com](http://forrestlegal.com)

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Phone*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Best time to contact*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

Fax or email this form to 860.372.4839  
[m@forrestlegal.com](mailto:m@forrestlegal.com)

## CLIENT INTAKE FORM

Q 1: Did the accident occur within the last year and a half? Y / N Date \_\_\_\_\_ (approximate.)

If "Yes", there should not be any SOL issues. Go to the next question.

Q 2: Was the accident your client's fault? Y / N

If "No", then there is a third party claim. Continue to the next question.

Q 3: Was your client's vehicle worth (estimated) more than \$25,000 dollars the day before the accident? Y / N

If "Yes", move to the next question.

Q 4: Does your client lease their vehicle? Y / N

If "No", your client owns the vehicle and they have a possible DV claim.

If you are talking with your client in person, please share this document with them. If you are talking with them over the phone, please explain the claim contact request form in this brochure. Ask them if they are willing to talk with our firm regarding Diminished Value. If they consent, please fill out the claim contact request on this brochure and fax or email it to our firm. We will initiate contact with them to discuss the matter and contact you with any questions, concerns or updates.



**FORREST LAW**  
P: 860.757.3828  
F: 860.372.4839  
72 Somerset Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
[m@forrestlegal.com](mailto:m@forrestlegal.com)  
[forrestlegal.com](http://forrestlegal.com)



**LAWYER'S  
DIMINISHED VALUE FAQ**

**My client's vehicle has been  
damaged in an accident.**

**How does that  
affect its value?**

**What can I do about it?**

**FORREST LAW**



860.757.3828  
[forrestlegal.com](http://forrestlegal.com)

## VEHICLE DIMINISHED VALUE FAQs

### WHAT IS DIMINISHED VALUE? (DV)

Diminished value is the lost market value when a vehicle is damaged. Even though a vehicle has been physically repaired, it has lost value for a number of reasons. First, the auto market generally recognizes that a damaged vehicle is not as valuable as an undamaged vehicle. Consumers usually place a lower value on a previously damaged vehicle. Second, repair shops are frequently unable to duplicate many of the manufacturers' processes or products. In addition to other factors, the inability to restore a vehicle to its exact state before an accident leads consumers to reduce its value.



### HOW DOES MY FIRM BENEFIT?

Many times firms discard clients and cases that have no or little PI damage, but have DV value. Those cases should be referred to Forrest Law, where we commonly pay a referral fee. Also, your current caseload most likely has unrealized Diminished Value claims. We can help you realize larger claims, and, therefore, bigger settlements and verdicts.

### HOW DO MY CLIENTS BENEFIT?

Your clients can benefit in two ways. First, they may realize a bigger return and value from their case due to Diminished Value. Second, there may be other damages that aren't readily apparent (i.e. loss of use or inconvenience claims)

### HOW DO I RECOGNIZE A DV CASE?

Essentially you are looking for a third party liability accident. Once favorable liability is determined, Forrest Law will use appraisers to assess any potential DV to determine if there is a viable case.

### HOW DO I REFER A CASE TO FORREST LAW?

Please use the one-column client contact sheet on this brochure that concisely explains the concept of DV to a client. Please fill out the short contact form and fax it to us. We will inform you if there is a viable DV case and, if we are pursuing it, a referral arrangement. Online referral forms are available at [bit.ly/MFL-Atty](http://bit.ly/MFL-Atty) that you can print out as well.



### IS THERE CASE LAW IN CONNECTICUT ON DV?

Yes, Connecticut courts, from small claims to the Connecticut Supreme Court, have confirmed DV to be a viable and successful legal claim.

### WILL A DV SUIT HURT MY PI CLAIM?

No, many DV claims are brought in small claims court. The Connecticut Supreme Court has explicitly ruled that a small claims suit in no way forecloses a PI suit or evidence in a superior court action.

### HOW WOULD YOU HANDLE A LARGE DV CLAIM IF THERE IS A PI CLAIM ASSOCIATED WITH IT?

After evaluating the DV claim, if superior court is warranted, we will provide the referring attorney the language for the DV count that would be added to the Complaint. The Complaint's demand will then increase by the DV amount. The referring attorney then has the option to settle the PI, DV, or both with the insurance company.

If your firm settles only the PI portion, simply withdraw the PI portion of the complaint and Forrest Law will continue with the DV portion and, if successful, pay the referring attorney a referral fee. If the referring attorney settles the DV portion, then the standard referral fee will be due Forrest Law. Most cases do not fall in this scenario.

## Examples of Recent Diminished Value Claims and Their Values

### 2014 Nissan Pathfinder



Before: \$41,805

After: \$28,500

Diminished Value:  
\$13,305

### 2014 Honda Ridgeline



Before: \$25,600

After: \$22,500

Diminished Value:  
\$3,100

### 2012 Subaru Impreza



Before: \$26,807

After: \$20,106

Diminished Value:  
\$6,701

### 2013 Rolls Royce Ghost



Before: \$238,266

After: \$178,000

Diminished Value:  
\$60,266