

THE AFTERMATH OF A FATAL ROAD ACCIDENT

Recently I met a young man in his mid-twenties. Up till about 2 years ago life was good for him. He had a good job, was highly thought of by his employers and neat circle of friends. He loved socialising, his car and all of the things young folk do.

That all ended very suddenly as the result of a bad decision that was to drive too fast after having a night out. His car hit a power pole and one of his passengers died. The effect on this young man has been devastating.

Now he lives a very lonely life in a sleep out filling in time between bouts of depression, surviving on a meagre benefit. He cannot work and it may take years before he will.

Recovering from his own injuries took time but he made a full physical recovery.

After the accident there is the devastation of being responsible for the death of a good mate. The inevitable time of grief and anger always accompanies such events. Then there were the months of waiting for the Court charges to be dealt with. Life goes on hold at times like that. Prison is almost inevitable for anyone convicted of bad driving causing death. Home detention and/or community service are possibilities are not easy options. As part of his sentence he was ordered to pay reparation of \$15,000.00. It is difficult enough to pay fines and reparation while on a benefit but \$15,000.00 was one step too far and he ended up being adjudicated bankrupt.

It doesn't end there. Remember the car hit a pole in the accident. The lines Company sued him for the damage done to their power and electrical installation. Believe me that was not cheap.

He does not own a car now and rarely goes out.

This is not a work of fiction. It is a true story and brought home to me just how vigilant we all need to be in our everyday lives not to make decisions which if they are wrong will alter ours and others lives for ever.

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