

7-606 through 7-635, of Article 66 1/2 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume) notwithstanding the general repeal of said sections except that any reference therein to the Unsatisfied Claim and Judgment Fund, or the board or attorneys or agents thereof, shall be deemed to refer to the Fund or the executive director, and attorneys or agents thereof, respectively. Notwithstanding the provisions of §§ 7-620, 7-621, 7-622, and 7-623, the executive director on behalf of the Fund may stipulate that the procedural requirements for bringing an action against the Fund have been met and consent to an order permitting the claimant to bring an action against the Fund. No stipulation or consent shall be deemed a waiver of any defense which the Fund may have with respect to the case.

(2) [The Fund may settle or pay without court approval a claim made against the Unsatisfied Claim and Judgment Fund. The executive director shall promulgate rules setting forth the procedural requirements for such settlements or payments. The rules shall include provision for:

(i) The subrogation of the Fund at the time of settlement to all rights of the claimant against the uninsured motorist; and

(ii) The right of the uninsured motorist to contest a settlement.] THE FUND MAY, AT ANY TIME, WITHOUT COURT APPROVAL, SETTLE AND PAY CLAIMS BROUGHT UNDER THIS SECTION. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL ADOPT RULES SETTING FORTH THE PROCEDURE FOR THE SETTLEMENTS OR PAYMENTS.

(3) WHEN THE FUND HAS NEGOTIATED WITH THE PLAINTIFF AND OBTAINED AN OFFER OF SETTLEMENT, IF THE FUND FINDS THAT THE OFFER IS REASONABLE, THE FUND SHALL NOTIFY THE DEFENDANT OF THE OFFER IN THE MANNER PROVIDED BY THE APPLICABLE RULES ADOPTED BY THE FUND. IF THE DEFENDANT APPROVES THE OFFER, THE PLAINTIFF SHALL PROCEED TO SETTLEMENT AS PROVIDED BY THE RULES ADOPTED BY THE FUND AND THE COURT OF APPEALS. IF THE DEFENDANT REJECTS THE OFFER, THE FUND SHALL CAUSE A NOTICE TO BE SERVED ON THE DEFENDANT SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL TO HIS LAST KNOWN ADDRESS WHICH SHALL STATE:

(I) THAT THE FUND SHALL WITHDRAW FROM THE CLAIM OR ACTION WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE AT THE EXPIRATION OF 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE NOTICE;

(II) THAT THE DEFENDANT HAS 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE NOTICE WITHIN WHICH TO ENGAGE COUNSEL OF HIS OWN SELECTION TO DEFEND HIM IN THE CLAIM OR ACTION AND THAT HIS COUNSEL SHALL ENTER HIS APPEARANCE FOR DEFENDANT WITHIN THE 30 DAY PERIOD OR THAT THE DEFENDANT MAY ENTER AN APPEARANCE IN HIS OWN BEHALF IN THE CLAIM OR ACTION WITHIN THAT PERIOD; AND