



Ashbourne Cardiac First Responders

Dear Sir / Madam

I write to inform you that I, _____, Policy No. _____, have applied to be a voluntary member of the Ashbourne Cardiac First Responder scheme.

The Scheme

The First Responder scheme (Scheme) has been developed by the community in consultation with the National Ambulance Service whereby local volunteers are trained to provide emergency care, including defibrillation if necessary to the seriously ill patient while an emergency ambulance is en route to the scene. The First Responder scheme is established in a number of areas throughout the State.

All members of the Scheme are volunteers and are not employed by the Scheme and do not receive payment for their services. In return for their assistance, the Scheme provides training in basic life support, the storage and use of medical equipment and instruction on the volunteer's obligation to the public. The volunteers are obliged to submit to regular retraining. Prior to accepting a volunteer into the Scheme, the Scheme undertakes a number of suitability checks, which includes a Garda Clearance check and obtaining references.

Volunteer's Role

Each volunteer responds as part of an availability rota within their local Scheme. During such periods, the Responder may be alerted by the National Ambulance Service to a 999 emergency in their area. The Scheme's volunteers will attend incidents by vehicle (subject to obtaining suitable endorsements on their vehicles' insurance policies).

Insurance Cover

The National Ambulance Service requires that all volunteers get confirmation, in writing to both the volunteer and Ashbourne Cardiac First Responders that they will be covered under the terms of their existing policy to use their vehicle while acting as a volunteer. In this regard, they draw your attention to the following points:

- The vehicle will not be equipped with any emergency warning devices (including lights and sirens).
- There will be no entitlement for the volunteer to claim any priority over any other motorist.
- The volunteer will at all times be expected to observe all applicable road traffic laws.
- Neither the National Ambulance Service nor the Scheme will be responsible for any vehicle excise duty, NCT or other sum payable in respect of the vehicle.
- Neither the National Ambulance Service nor the Scheme will be responsible for the mechanical condition of the motor vehicle or for any cost of any maintenance or repair.
- The National Ambulance Service cannot provide an estimate of the annual mileage the volunteer will undertake in the performance of their duties. However, the Scheme is designed to operate within an 8 minute travelling time of the volunteer's starting address.
- The volunteer will occasionally store first aid equipment, possibly including oxygen cylinders in their vehicle. All volunteers have been trained in the safe use and storage of their equipment, and obliged to attend regular re-training. All equipment is provided with suitable storage and carriage containers.

A copy of the National Ambulance Service's policy and procedures is available on request. **Please forward written confirmation of cover to:**

**Ashbourne Cardiac First Responders
Attention: Timmy Riordan
Tadg Riordan Motors
Ashbourne, Co. Meath**

Yours faithfully
