To: Members of the Media

07 SEPTEMBER 2026

MEDIA RELEASE:

WHAT RAF CLAIMANTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CONTINGENCY FEES AND LEGAL COSTS

Legal costs and contingency fees can significantly reduce the compensation that claimants ultimately receive from the Road Accident Fund (RAF). For this reason, the RAF urges road accident victims, claimants, and their loved ones to understand their rights and make informed decisions before entering into legal agreements.

Claimants seeking compensation for death and personal injury claims through law firms or attorneys are charged a contingency fee. This is a portion of a claimant's settlement amount and is paid to their attorney for successfully handling the RAF claim. The claimant should be informed that they will not be required to pay the attorney if the claim fails due to lack of liability on the RAF and/ or if the claim is rejected.

According to the Contingency Fees Act, contingency fees may not exceed 25% of the total settlement or may not exceed 100% of the practitioner's normal fees (may not be doubled), whichever is lower. The fees are payable upon the successful resolution of the claim by the Fund.

Represented claimants should ask their attorneys when the 25% will be deducted, which expenses will be included in the contingency fee, and whether there are any additional charges beyond that fee. Contingency fee agreements must comply with the Contingency Fees Act.

Legal costs are awarded by the courts or may arise by agreement in settlement. They are expenses that are reasonably incurred to prove and finalise a claimant's claim. These costs ensure the case is backed by evidence and input from several relevant experts who contribute to the determination of the extent of injuries sustained by the claimant. This includes collecting and preparing documents, obtaining hospital and medical records, serving legal papers in court, scheduling appointments with medical experts, hiring advocates for representation, and sourcing expert medical and actuarial reports to calculate damages.

Understanding the difference between contingency fees and legal costs will help claimants make informed decisions, avoid surprises, and ensure transparency during the claims process.

In the unfortunate event of being involved in a motor vehicle accident contact the **RAF Contact Centre** on **087 820 1111** from **Monday to Friday**, **07h45 to 16h00**. Claimants may also reach the RAF's Contact Centre on the WhatsApp number 071 605 4707, via SMS on 44930, or by email on contactcentre@raf.co.za. In addition, the RAF can be contacted through its nationwide offices; details are available on its website at http://www.raf.co.za.

For additional information and updates, follow the RAF on social media:
@RAF_SA or Facebook @Road Accident Fund

Issued by the Road Accident Fund