

MANDATORY PENALTY OFFENSES

A conviction for any of the following traffic related offenses results in a mandatory suspension or revocation of driving privilege. Following the required suspension or revocation period, a driver may reinstate his or her driving privilege by filing proof of financial responsibility (SR-22 insurance) and by paying a license reissue fee of \$20.00. If the suspension or revocation is due to driving or being in physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence, the reissue fee is \$50.00. To reinstate, the driver must also present evidence of participation in an approved alcohol program and successfully complete both knowledge and drive test.

Driving or being in physical control of a motor vehicle while intoxicated (DUI).

Suspension/Revocation ranged from 90 days to 4 years.

Reckless driving or racing:

First or second conviction in two years: 30 day suspension. Third conviction in two years: Revocation for one year.

Eluding police vehicle: Revocation for one year.

Hit and Run (Attended vehicle or injury): Revocation for one year.

Driving while suspended 1st or 2nd degree: Revocation for one year.

Driving while revoked 1st or 2nd degree: Additional one year.

Vehicular Homicide: Two year revocation begins after release from incarceration.

Vehicular Assault: One year revocation begins after release from incarceration.

Felony in which a motor vehicle is used: One year revocation.

Leaving children unattended in a standing vehicle: Second conviction in five years, one year revocation.

HABITUAL TRAFFIC OFFENDERS

Drivers are classified as “Habitual Traffic Offenders” when they have been found to have committed three major traffic offenses, such as DUI, Reckless Driving, Driving While Suspended or Revoked, Eluding a Police Vehicle, Vehicular Assault or Homicide, and Hit and Run Attended, or 20 moving violations, such as speeding, defective

equipment, driving without a seat belt, etc. within five years. When a person's record reaches this status, a notice of revocation is mailed. The revocation period is for 5 years, and the driver may contest the action by requesting a hearing.

If the traffic offenses upon which the revocation is based were caused by or were the result of alcoholism, the Department of Licensing may stay the revocation. The driver must follow a course of treatment for alcoholism or drug addiction in any agency approved by the Department of Social and Health Services and must comply with the conditions imposed by the Department of Licensing. Failure to meet these requirements will result in the re-issuance of the revocation.

MEDICAL/VISION

The Department of Licensing monitors drivers who have medical or vision problems which could impair their ability to drive safely or who have had a loss of consciousness or control in the past six months. Drivers who have a medical or vision problem must submit a medical certificate signed by a licensed health care authority or a vision certificate signed by a licensed ophthalmologist or optometrist. If necessary, we may require the driver to be re-examined, which consists of a visual screening, a knowledge test and a drive test. The examination may result in a limited or restricted driving privilege.

MANDATORY INSURANCE

Everyone who operates a motor vehicle (motorcycles are exempt) is subject to registration in Washington is required to be insured under a motor vehicle liability policy. The operator of a vehicle must have an insurance identification card issued by the insurance company in his or her possession when operating the vehicle, and must display the card to a law enforcement officer upon demand. A violation of this requirement constitutes a traffic infraction subject to a fine up to \$475.00.

CHILD SUPPORT

As of July 1, 1997, any person who is 180 days or more in arrears on child support payments could have their driver's, professional/business, hunting, fishing licenses and vessel registration suspended.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

If you are the driver or registered owner of a vehicle involved in an accident and are unable to furnish proof of financial responsibility, your driving privilege may be suspended. This applies to any accident resulting in personal injury or at least \$500.00 or more in damage to property. If you are involved in such an accident and do not have liability insurance at the time, you may be required to do one of the following to avoid a suspension:

- Furnish releases from liability from all other persons injured or damaged.
- Furnish an agreement for payment to all other persons injured or damaged.
- Furnish a certified copy of a civil court decision finding you not liable.
- Deposit security in an amount sufficient to satisfy any civil court judgment which may be entered against you, and file proof of liability coverage for the future.

If you do not comply with one of these requirements, your driving privileges may be suspended. If the vehicle involved in an accident is being driven by the registered owner, the registration of that vehicle may be suspended.

The suspension may remain in effect for three years or until you comply with one of these requirements.

OCCUPATIONAL DRIVER'S LICENSE

An individual whose driving privileges have been suspended or revoked may be eligible for an occupational driver's license, if the suspension or revocation is the result of a conviction for one of the following offenses:

- Driving or being in physical control of a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Reckless driving;
- Hit and run (attended vehicle or injury).
- Racing.
- Driving while suspended or revoked.
- Felony involving a motor vehicle.
- Leaving a child unattended in a standing vehicle.

An occupational license can only be used for specific employment purposes and will be restricted to specific hours of the days, routes or area of travel, and particular vehicles. It cannot be used for such things as school, medical appointment, attending alcohol treatment classes, or shopping. It is also not available if there has been a suspension or revocation for a reason other than a conviction.

COURT ORDERED SUSPENSION—FAILURE TO APPEAR/RESPOND/PAY OR COMPLY

If you do not meet the requirements of a citation issued to you, the court will notify DOL to suspend your driving privilege. The driving privilege will remain suspended until the court notifies DOL to release the suspension. If you receive an order of suspension for FTA—contact our office at 1-800-DUI ATTORNEY or the court indicated on the order for instructions on settling the FTA.

DRIVER AWARENESS PROGRAM

Approximately 90 percent of all Washington drivers will drive each year without receiving any traffic citations. When drivers begin to accumulate citations, this can signal the beginning of serious driving problems.

When a driver receives four citations in 12 months or five citations in 24 months, he or she is required to attend a Driver Awareness Interview to avoid a license suspension. The consequences of receiving these citations, as well as the benefits of maintaining a good driving record, are emphasized in the Driver Awareness Interview.

After the individual completes the Interview, that person's driving privilege is placed on a 12-month conditional status. Two or more citations received during this period will cause the driving privilege to be suspended for at least 30 days.

To reinstate the driving privilege following suspension for continuing to receive traffic violations, the driver must meet the following requirements:

- Provide proof of financial responsibility (SR-22)
- Pay the required re-issue fees
- Pay any unpaid traffic violation fines.