

Ohio Driver's License Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction and Amnesty Program

What is the Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction and Amnesty Program?

The Reinstatement Fee Debt Reduction and Amnesty Program is a new, permanent program with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). Through this program, you may be able to get your BMV reinstatement fees reduced or erased.

Beginning on December 13, 2020, the BMV will reach out to people who are eligible for this program. There is no application required.

The program only applies to a driver's license or permit. You may not get reinstatement fees waived or reduced if you have a commercial driver's license or permit. You must show proof of current insurance to qualify for the program.

Am I eligible for the program?

The BMV will automatically enroll any person who is eligible for the program and inform that person through email or regular mail. You do not need to apply for this program.

You will be enrolled into the program when all of the following apply:

- Your driver's license or permit has been suspended for one or more eligible offense
- At least 18 months have passed since the end of the suspension period for at least one of the person's eligible offenses

- You owe reinstatement fees
- You have not been enrolled in the program previously

You may enroll in this program only once in your lifetime. The program is separated into two phases: suspensions that happened before September 15, 2020 and those that happen after that date. If you have suspensions from before September 15, 2020, you will be eligible in phase 1. If you get more suspensions after that date, you cannot ask the BMV to reduce those new fees as well.

Am I eligible for a complete waiver of my reinstatement fees?

If you are a low-income person, you may be able to get a complete waiver of eligible reinstatement fees. You must show proof of participation in one of the following programs to qualify for a waiver:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – aka, Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Ohio Works First (OWF)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- VA Pension

To prove current participation in one of these programs, you must submit a document from the agency that administers the benefit. You can get information on your SNAP, OWF and/or Medicaid participation from your county Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS). You can create an

account with the self-service portal at [Self Service Portal Home Page](http://ohio.gov) (ohio.gov) and print out the information yourself.

You can get information about your VA pension by creating an account at www.ebenefits.va.gov. You can also call the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-698-2411.

You can get information about your SSI by creating an account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. You can also call Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213.

If you have reinstatement fees left after the waiver is applied, you will be put on a \$25/month payment plan for your remaining fees. You may submit your payments by regular mail, online, or in-person at the BMV or a deputy registrar office. All in-person payments must be accompanied by a \$10 deputy registrar/BMV fee.

How does the fee reduction work?

If you are not eligible for a waiver, you may be eligible for a fee reduction. If you owe fees on one eligible suspension, you must pay 50% of the original amount. If you owe fees on multiple eligible suspensions, the BMV will tell you to pay either the lowest fee you owe, OR 10% of the total you owe – whichever is greater. Your payment must be at least \$25 per month.

You may submit your payments by regular mail, online, or in-person at the BMV or a deputy registrar office. All in-person payments must be accompanied by a \$10 deputy registrar/BMV fee.

What offenses are eligible?

The BMV will tell you which of your suspensions is eligible for a fee reduction or waiver. Some common suspensions that are included in the program are:

- Non-compliance: failure to carry state-minimum insurance
- Forfeiture: failure to appear or pay a traffic-related fine
- Security: failure to pay security or request a hearing after an accident
- Random Selection: failure to show proof of state-minimum insurance
- 12-point: accumulated points from traffic violations

Offenses that involved alcohol, illegal drugs, and/or a deadly weapon, are not eligible for fee waiver or reduction.

How do I find out more?

Questions? Call 1-844-644-6268.

Additional information is available at <https://www.bmv.ohio.gov/susp-fees-amnesty.aspx#gsc.tab>.

For legal assistance, call the Legal Aid line at (513) 241-9400