

Driver's License Suspensions in Ohio

In many communities in Ohio, it is hard to find and keep employment without being able to drive. Some people cannot legally drive because their driver's license is suspended.

How do I know if my driver's license is suspended?

You can check your driving record on the Ohio BMV website: <https://bmv.ohio.gov/>. Check out the "BMV Online Services" and you can pull up your driving record. This will tell you if your license is valid or not. Your driving record will also list all of the active suspensions on your license.

I have suspensions on my license. How did I get them?

There are many different types of driver's license suspensions. Some are imposed by a court as part of a sentence for someone found guilty in a traffic or criminal case. For example, if you are convicted of driving a car while impaired by drugs or alcohol, otherwise known as an OVI, you may have a court-imposed suspension as part of your sentence.

Other suspensions are imposed by the BMV. These include suspensions for not having state minimum car insurance (non-compliance suspension), failing to appear in court in a traffic/criminal case (forfeiture suspension), or having 12 points on your license from traffic offenses (12-point suspension).

Can I get driving privileges while my license is suspended?

You can only get driving privileges with certain suspensions. You must petition a court for privileges. The BMV cannot grant driving privileges. You must show proof of state minimum insurance and SR22 bond (if required under your suspension.) If the court grants you privileges, you can only drive when and where the court order allows.

I paid my reinstatement fees to the BMV, so why is my license still suspended?

The BMV imposes reinstatement fees on all suspensions. These are fees due to the BMV. Paying them does not cure or fix the suspensions on your license. Most people can get a \$25 monthly payment plan to pay their reinstatement fees. If you are low-income and receive certain types of public benefits like Medicaid or SNAP, you may be able to get your fees waived. The waiver and payment plan applications are on the BMV website.

How do I get a valid driver's license if my current license is suspended?

It depends on what types of suspension(s) you have on your license. You generally need to do everything required by Ohio law to get in compliance. You may need to pay a fine in a traffic case, take a remedial driving course, pay outstanding child support, or get state minimum insurance. If your suspension was imposed by a court as part of a criminal sentence, you must comply with the court's orders.

Who can help me understand my rights?

You may be able to get help from your local Legal Aid office. You can find the Legal Aid that serves your county at <https://www.ohiolegalhelp.org>. Call the office in your area and they can tell you if they can help you. You can also get the names of lawyers in your area by calling your county Bar Association.

