

# Driver's License Reinstatement Process

## 1 Determine the Cause for Suspension/Revocation

Contact the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) to determine the specific reason for suspension. You can also check online through the OMV's Driver Reinstatement Status Inquiry tool.

## 2 Meet the Requirements for Reinstatement

Depending on the reason for the suspension or revocation, you may need to: (1) pay outstanding fines, (2) complete court orders, (3) Get SR-22 Insurance, and (4) wait out the mandatory suspension period.

## 3 Pay the Reinstatement Fee

Fees range from \$60 to \$300 depending on the violation and can be paid online, in person, or by mail.

## 4 Check Reinstatement Status

After completing the steps, check the reinstatement status online or contact the OMV to verify whether your license has been reinstated.

Scan with your smartphone's camera to learn more.



# When to See a Lawyer

Reinstating a driver's license can be complicated.

You should consider seeing a lawyer for driver's license reinstatement under the following circumstances:

(1) DUI/DWI Suspensions, (2) Unclear Suspension Reason, (3) Appealing a Suspension or Revocation, (4) when there are multiple suspensions, or (5) there are insurance issues such as getting SR-22 insurance.

Louisiana has several free or reduced-cost options for people who can't afford a lawyer. Use the QR code below to find out more.

**Scan with your smartphone's camera to see what legal help programs may be available.**



# Driver's License Reinstatement

Reinstating a suspended or revoked driver's license involves several steps, including meeting specific legal requirements, paying fees, and submitting documentation. The Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) oversees the reinstatement process.

*Traffic and Cars*

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# Key Concepts and Definitions

## What are some common reasons for license suspension or revocation?

These are some of the common reasons for driver's license suspension or revocation:

- DUI/DWI Conviction: Driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while intoxicated (DWI).
- Failure to Pay Fines: Non-payment of traffic tickets or court fines.
- Failure to Appear (FTA): Missing a court appearance for a traffic-related matter.
- Driving Without Insurance: Driving without valid auto-insurance.
- Accumulation of Points: Louisiana uses a point system; accruing too many points from traffic violations can trigger a suspension.

## Key Terms

Suspension: Temporary withdrawal of driving privileges, usually for a period.

Revocation: Cancellation of a driver's license; to drive again, the driver must go through the reinstatement process as if applying for a new license.

Reinstatement Fee: A fee that must be paid to regain driving privileges. The fee amount varies based on the reason for suspension or revocation.

SR-22 Insurance: This is a high-risk insurance certificate that proves financial responsibility and is often required after a suspension due to a serious traffic violation like a DUI/DWI.

# What you Need to Know

## Hearing Request

In some cases, you may request a hearing to challenge the suspension or circumstances around it. This is common in DUI/DWI cases where drivers want to contest the charge.

## Court-Ordered Programs

Completion of court-mandated programs, such as DUI school or substance abuse counseling, is necessary for reinstatement after certain convictions.

## Driving Without a License

Driving while your license is suspended or revoked can result in more severe penalties, including extended suspension periods and additional fines.

## Time Frame for Reinstatement

The reinstatement process can vary in time, depending on the reasons for suspension and how quickly you meet the requirements. For instance, after completing a DUI suspension, you may still have a probation period or SR-22 requirement that keeps your license status condition.

## Time Frame for Reinstatement

Some individuals may be eligible for a fee reduction or payment plan if they meet certain income requirements. Fee waivers are rare but possible under specific hardship conditions.

# Other Issues to Consider

## Additional Steps for Out-of State Drivers

If you hold an out-of-state driver's licenses but were suspended in Louisiana, you must still resolve the suspension with the Louisiana OMV. Some states will also honor suspensions from Louisiana under the Interstate Driver License Compact.

## Contacting the OMV

Louisiana OMV can provide information on your suspension, required steps, and fee amounts. You can reach them via their website, phone, or in person at an OMV branch.

## Hardship or Restricted Licenses

In Louisiana, a hardship license (also known as a restricted license) allows individuals with suspended or revoked driver's licenses to drive under limited circumstances, typically for essential purposes like commuting to work, attending school, or meeting medical or family needs.

Not all individuals with suspended or revoked licenses are eligible for a hardship license. Eligibility depends on the reason for the suspension and whether you meet specific legal and administrative criteria.

If your suspension is related to a DUI/DWI you will likely be required to install an ignition interlock device (IID) in your vehicle as a condition for receiving a hardship license. The IID prevents the car from starting unless the driver can provide a breath sample that is alcohol free.

Visit [www.LouisianaLegalNavigator.org](http://www.LouisianaLegalNavigator.org) to learn more.