

# DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENSIONS – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Neighborhood Legal Services Association

**Q: Can my license be suspended for failing to have vehicle insurance?**

A: Yes. It is your duty to always maintain financial responsibility on your vehicle at all times. If you fail to have insurance or it lapses, your license will be suspended for three months.

**Q: Can my license be suspended for failing to pay child support or comply with custody orders regarding visitation?**

A: Yes. If you fall three months behind on your child support obligations, the court can send that information to PennDOT to suspend your license until you pay the arrears. If you are having problems making the payments, you should petition the court to modify the support order so that you are able to afford payments and maintain your driver's license. If you do not comply with the terms of your custody order, you may also have your license suspended.

**Q: Can my license be suspended for failing to pay a civil judgment?**

A: Yes. If a civil judgment has been entered against YOU and that judgment is related to a traffic accident, your license can be suspended indefinitely until you either pay the judgment or make arrangements to pay with the party holding the judgment. You must then show proof of the pay arrangement to PennDOT to have your license restored. Another option that may be available to you is filing for bankruptcy to clear the debt and get your license restored. You should speak with an attorney to determine whether filing for bankruptcy is in your best financial interest.

**Q: Can my license be suspended even if I do not have one?**

A: Yes. If you are pulled over in a traffic stop and are driving without ever having obtained a non-commercial driver's license, commercial driver's license, or motorcycle license, then your ability to get a license will be suspended for six months. You should visit a Driver's License Center to find out more information about obtaining a non-commercial driver's learner's permit, commercial learner's permit, or motorcycle permit.

**Q: Can my license be suspended if I drive while it is suspended?**

A: Yes. Every time you are pulled over for driving while your license is suspended, and you get a citation for driving while your license is suspended, an automatic one-year suspension is added on to the end of your current license suspension. You should visit a Driver's License Center to find out more information about an Occupational Limited License or Probationary License that would allow you to drive during certain hours of the day so that you can get to and from work.

**Q: Are there any criminal offenses that could cause me to lose my license?**

A: Yes. Any convictions under the Controlled Substance, Drug, Device, and Cosmetic Act carry a six-month license suspension even though the offense might not be driving-related. If you fail to consent to a blood, breath, or urine test, regardless of whether you are later convicted of driving while under the influence, your license will be suspended. If you are convicted of underage drinking, a felony involving a vehicle, or a hit and run offense, you will face license suspension.

**Q: If I do not respond to traffic citations, can my license be suspended?**

A: Yes. If you do not respond to a traffic citation by pleading guilty and paying the fine or by pleading not guilty and defending yourself in court, then the pending traffic citation will be forwarded to PennDOT and your license will be suspended indefinitely until you respond to the traffic citation.

## WHO TO CALL FOR HELP

To find out if you qualify for legal assistance from NLSA, please call the office in your county.

*Bridgewater . . . . . 724-378-0595*

*Butler . . . . . 724-282-3888*


*New Castle . . . . . 724-658-2677*

*Pittsburgh . . . . . 412-255-6700*

*(toll-free) . . . . . 1-866-761-6572*

*or visit our website at [www.nlsa.us](http://www.nlsa.us)*

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