



If Your Driver's License Was Suspended for Not Paying Traffic Fines, You May Be Able to Get it Back Under a New Court Order

The Department of Licensing (DOL) can no longer suspend driver's licenses because a driver failed to pay non-criminal traffic tickets and/or failed to appear at a related hearing.



Suspended licenses will be reinstated, which means **licenses will no longer be suspended**. DOL is not allowed to automatically suspend a driver's license for unpaid traffic tickets until January 2023. If your license is **expired**, you must **renew it**. This may include taking the written and driving test.



Your license will not be suspended for **unpaid non-criminal moving violations** like speeding tickets. DOL can still suspend your license for criminal traffic violations like Driving Under the Influence (DUI) or reckless driving.



Important Information to Get You Back on the Road

Washington
LawHelp



If your license was suspended for failure to pay traffic tickets:

- (1) Your driver's license is no longer suspended, as of June 16, 2021; (2) You will not have to pay the \$75 reissuance fee; and (3) DOL will reinstate your license if you are eligible for reinstatement.

What do I do next?

1. Register at DOL's License eXpress website to determine the status of your driver's license. It is free.
2. You still have to pay general license and renewal fees.
3. Some drivers will need to take the driving test.

Do I still owe the fines to the court or collection agency?

Yes. You can request a payment plan or, instead of paying, request to do community service towards that debt.

CAUTION: Your wages or bank account could be garnished if you do not pay the fines or do community service.

Can I start driving now?

Maybe. Check to confirm that the suspension has been lifted by either:

- Calling DOL's automated line: (360) 902-3900; OR
- Checking the status of your license online.

You can likely start driving again if all of these are true:

- Your license was suspended within the last 6 years for failure to pay for or appear at hearings for non-criminal traffic tickets.
- Your driver's license has not expired within that time.
- Your license is in your possession .

DOL online resources

To learn about testing requirements, costs, and locations:

<https://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/testing.html>

Check status of your license:

<https://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/checkstatus.html>

To learn about fees:

<https://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/fees.html>

