

Driver Responsibility

(Driver Responsibility Law Changes)

Effective: April 1, 2009

Public Act 460 of 2008 affords individuals with a Driver Responsibility Fee (DRF) suspension an opportunity to reinstate their driver's license under certain conditions.

Old DRF Provisions	New DRF Provisions
Payment arrangements (Installment Agreements) available for assessments of \$500 or more.	Payment arrangements (Installment Agreements) available for any assessed amount.
Payment arrangements allowed for 12 months only.	Payment arrangements allowed for 24 months.
Driver is suspended indefinitely for failure to pay Driver Responsibility Fee or for defaulting on payment arrangement.	Driver may obtain driving privileges with an approved payment arrangement (under certain conditions).
Driver must pay Driver Responsibility Fee in full to restore driving privileges.	Driver may have suspension terminated before Driver Responsibility Fee is paid in full.
Once Driver Responsibility Fee is paid in full, a \$125 reinstatement fee is paid at Secretary of State branch office before driver's license is issued.	Driver may include \$125 driver's license reinstatement fee into installment agreement.

How the payment/installment process works on/after April 1, 2009:

- Driver owes for an unpaid DRF.
- Driver is suspended for non-payment of DRF and has no other suspensions, revocations or denials.
- Driver must contact the Michigan Department of Treasury for an Installment Agreement that may lead to restoration of driving privileges. Note that drivers under a current installment agreement (currently suspended) may be able to enter into a new agreement that would restore driving privileges.
- Driver has the choice of including the \$125 reinstatement fee into Installment Agreement.
- Upon notification from the Michigan Department of Treasury, the driver will receive a letter regarding their eligibility to drive from the Michigan Department of State.
- Driver continues to make DRF payments until paid in full.

Individuals are NOT eligible for removal of the DRF suspension if they:

1. Do not enter into a new Installment Agreement.
2. Are suspended for any reason other than a DRF suspension.
3. Were already afforded a new Installment Agreement and defaulted on the agreement.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Where can I get information on the new Driver Responsibility Law changes?

Driver Responsibility Fee (DRF) Program

www.michigan.gov/driverresponsibility

Contact the Michigan Department of Treasury	Contact the Michigan Department of State
Collections Division 1-800-950-6227 You may request an Installment Agreement by contacting Treasury.	Driver and Vehicle Record Information 1-888-SOS-MICH (1-888-767-6424) You also may purchase a copy of your driving record at any Secretary of State office for \$8.

2. Can I make payment arrangements if I have never made a payment on my Driver Responsibility Fee?

Yes. The law may allow you up to 24 months to make payment arrangements on the amount you currently owe.

3. I initially made payment arrangements but defaulted and my license is now suspended. Can I make another payment arrangement to get my driver's license back?

If your license is suspended for non-payment of a driver responsibility fee or you defaulted on a payment arrangement (Installment Agreement), you may be eligible to enter into a new Installment Agreement that would allow your driving privileges to be reinstated. Contact the Michigan Department of Treasury to see if you qualify.

4. If my license is suspended and I make a new payment arrangement, do I automatically get my driver's license back?

No, the reinstatement of your license is not automatic. There are certain conditions in which you may be eligible to drive. The law is intended to restore driving privileges only for those suspended for nonpayment of driver responsibility fees. If the suspension is for nonpayment of driver responsibility fees only, you are still required to pay a \$125 reinstatement fee. If your driving privileges are reinstated, the \$125 reinstatement fee can be included in your installment agreement. If your license is suspended, revoked or denied for reasons other than nonpayment of driver responsibility fees, you are not eligible to drive.

5. What happens if I default on the payment arrangement after I get my driver's license back?

If your driving privileges are reinstated after entering into an approved Installment Agreement and you default on the payments, your driving privileges will again be suspended and will not be reinstated until the driver responsibility fees are paid in full. An additional \$125 reinstatement fee will be required prior to the reinstatement of your license.

6. If I entered into an installment agreement, when will I know if I am eligible to drive?

Once you enter into an approved Installment Agreement with the Michigan Department of Treasury, the Michigan Department of State will mail a notification to the address on your driver's license indicating whether you are eligible to drive. You should not drive until you receive this notification.