

September 2010

Indefinite Licence Suspension Program

British Columbians have demanded that the roads be kept safe from impaired and dangerous drivers, and have no tolerance for criminal driving.

Since August 29, 1997, persons criminally convicted of specific motor vehicle related offences automatically have their driver's licence, or their right to apply for a driver's licence suspended for a minimum of one year. Persons with previous convictions face longer licence suspensions. Drivers do not have a right to appeal a licence suspension.

Licence Suspensions

For a first offence, the licence suspension lasts for one year. If the driver had a previous conviction within 10 years, the suspension will last for three years. If a driver has three or more convictions they will lose their driver's licence indefinitely.

Licence Reinstatement

Drivers whose licences are suspended indefinitely must wait a minimum of five years before they can reapply for a driver's licence.

Offenders may be required by the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles to participate in and/or successfully complete remedial programming as a requirement or condition of relicensing. Failure will result in suspensions being extended indefinitely.

Offenders convicted of an impaired driving criminal offence occurring on or after June 15, 2005 must complete the Responsible Driver Program before they can become relicensed. In addition, offenders convicted of an alcohol-related criminal driving offence occurring on or after February 2009, will be required to drive ignition interlock-equipped vehicles as a condition of relicensing.

Driving While Suspended

Persons convicted of Driving While Suspended are subject to a \$500 fine and to possible jail time for a first offence; 14 days in jail for a second offence. Any vehicle driven by a suspended driver is subject to escalating vehicle impoundment sanctions.

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