

Responsible Driver Program for Impaired Drivers

The Responsible Driver Program is a remedial program for impaired drivers. Every Canadian province and many jurisdictions throughout the world have similar programs and they have been shown to reduce the risk of repeat impaired-related accidents and convictions. British Columbia is partnering with Stroh Health Care to deliver the program province-wide.

Participants

The program applies to a broad range of impaired drivers, consisting of both criminally convicted impaired drivers and drivers with multiple Motor Vehicle Act impaired driving prohibitions:

- one impaired-driving-related Criminal Code or Motor Vehicle Act (sec. 224 or 226) conviction
- one 90-day Immediate Roadside Prohibition (IRP)
- one 30-day Immediate Roadside Prohibition (IRP)
- one Administrative Driving Prohibition (ADP) within five years
- three 24-hour prohibitions (24P) in five years
- or any combination of three ADPs, 24Ps and IRPs within five years

In addition, all convicted impaired drivers whose licence has been suspended indefinitely can take the program if they want to reapply for their driver's licence, as long as they have served a minimum of five years. Other drivers may be referred at the discretion of the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles, based on their impaired-related driving records.

How the Program Works

The Superintendent will send a letter to anyone who is required to participate in the program. Clients must complete the program as a condition of keeping their driver's licence or before they can regain their driving privileges. After paying the \$880.00 program fee, participants will attend a screening interview with a counsellor and subsequently be directed to one of two programs that best meets their needs. Options include:

- A one-day education session in a classroom setting.
- A 16-hour group counselling program, scheduled over a three-month period.

Drivers are assessed at the end, with the results considered by the Superintendent in reaching a decision on the client's fitness to drive. Some drivers will be allowed to apply for a full privilege driver's licence, while others will be required to have an ignition interlock device installed in their vehicle, or be found unfit to drive and not permitted to obtain a driver's licence. If someone is denied a driver's licence an administrative appeal is available.

For more information . . .

- visit the Office of Superintendent of Motor Vehicles website at www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/osmv
- visit the ICBC website at www.icbc.com for information on driver licensing.