

Driver's License Reinstatement Information

Background: Effective July 1, Virginia will prohibit courts from suspending someone's driving privilege **solely for failure to pay court fines and costs.** (This change does not affect non-payment of tolls.) Anyone whose driving privilege has been suspended solely for failure to pay court fines and costs will have driving privileges reinstated and will not owe a reinstatement fee. Important: This change in the law does not eliminate the requirement to pay the underlying court costs and fines.

If your license is suspended, how do you figure out why? The DMV will give you a free report called a "Compliance Summary," which will list all the reasons for the suspension. You can get your Compliance Summary by either: 1) going to a DMV office and picking it up in person; 2) calling DMV at (804) 497-7100 to get one mailed to you; 3) setting up an account on the DMV website (see below) and downloading the Compliance Summary.

What do you need to do if you think you are eligible for license reinstatement?

1. **Make sure your mailing address is up-to-date** by visiting dmvNOW.com.
2. **Look for a letter from DMV**, which will contact individuals who live in Virginia and have a suspended license for failure to pay court fines and costs. DMV will outline the requirements to get the driver's license reinstated.
3. **If you still have your physical license** AND it is not expired and you have presented DMV with proof of your permanent legal presence in the U.S. (birth certificate, U. S. Passport, legal permanent resident card), you won't need to take any action. Your license will be valid as of July 1.
4. **If you do not have your physical license AND/OR the license is expired**, you will have to get a replacement driver's license or renew your license, and you will have to pay the usual driver's license issue fee (\$20 for replacement; \$32 for an eight-year renewal, additional \$10 for REAL ID).
 - You will go through the standard application process, including a new photo and vision screening.
 - If you have not presented DMV with proof of your permanent legal presence in the United States (i.e. birth certificate, U. S. Passport, legal permanent resident card), you will have to provide proof of legal presence.
 - If there is evidence someone has held a license, no testing will be required -- unless it is required as a result of a driver's license revocation.
5. **If your driving privileges were suspended or revoked for other reasons, apart from or in addition to failure to pay court fines and costs**, you will need to meet any other court or DMV requirements to regain driving privileges.

Good to know: 1) Customers are encouraged to use alternate services (dmvNOW.com, mail, DMV Selects) for routine services. DMV offices will be extremely busy in the summer months and customers can expect longer-than-normal wait times. 2) **Reinstatement fees previously paid will not be refunded.** 3) **More information** is available at www.dmvNOW.com/fac or by calling (804) 474-2255.

VOICE is the largest grassroots, non-partisan, people power organization located in Northern Virginia. For more info on key priorities, including criminal justice reform: voice-iaf.org.