

What is the Texas Driver Responsibility Program?

Points system

The Driver Responsibility law is governed by Texas Transportation Code, Chapter 708. The law establishes a system which assigns points to moving violations classified as Class C misdemeanors and applies surcharges to offenders, based upon the type of offense and the time period in which the citation was received. For each conviction, DPS will assign points to a person's driver record as follows:

- Two points for a moving violation conviction in Texas or that of another state.
- Points will **not** be assigned for speeding less than 10% over the posted limit or for seat belt convictions.
- Child Safety Seat Violations will accrue two points.
- Three points for a moving violation conviction in Texas that resulted in a vehicle crash.

Points accrued remain on the driver record for a period of three years from conviction date. An offense committed prior to September 1, 2003 will not apply to the assessment of points under the program.

Points surcharge

DPS will assess a surcharge when the driver accumulates a total of six points or more on their record during a three-year period. The surcharge assessment will be reviewed annually. If driver record continues to reflect six or more points during the prior three-year period, the surcharge will be assessed. Therefore, drivers may be required to pay for **one or more years if six or more points continue to accumulate on the driver record.** The driver is required to pay a \$100 surcharge for the first six points and \$25 for each additional point. Point surcharges are cumulative and may vary with each annual assessment if convictions are added or removed from the driver record.

Annual surcharge for certain convictions

Drivers who receive a conviction for any of the following offenses that occur on or after September 1, 2003 are required to pay an **annual surcharge for three years from the date of conviction.**

- Driving While Intoxicated (DWI), or a DWI-related offense
 - First Conviction - \$1,000 annual surcharge
 - Second or subsequent Conviction - \$1,500 annual surcharge
 - DWI with Blood Alcohol Content .16 or greater - \$2,000 annual surcharge
- Failure to Maintain Financial Responsibility
 - \$250 annual surcharge
- Driving While License Invalid
 - \$250 annual surcharge
- Driving without a Valid License (i.e.; No Driver License, No Commercial Driver License, No Endorsement Violation, No Motorcycle License, Operate with License for other Class Vehicle).
 - \$100 annual surcharge

Surcharges, which are cumulative, are automatically assessed for these convictions and do not accrue points. Therefore, an initial conviction for DWI will be assessed \$1000 annually, and a subsequent DWI conviction within the same three-year period will be assessed an additional \$1500 annually.

All surcharges assessed for this program are in addition to all other reinstatement fees required for other administrative actions and do not replace any administrative suspension, revocation, disqualification or cancellation action that results from these same convictions.

Driver notification of surcharge and driver license suspension

The driver will be notified by mail to the address on record with DPS of the assessment of a surcharge. The notice will state the surcharge must be paid within 30 days to prevent the suspension of driving privileges. Upon suspension for failure to comply with the surcharge requirements, driving privileges remain suspended until the person establishes an installment agreement, or pays in full all surcharges and related costs, such as service/collection fees.

As a courtesy, individual's establishing an installment agreement will receive monthly reminders with a payment coupon indicating the amount due and the remaining balance. Should a monthly reminder not be received, the driver is still responsible for making timely payments to prevent suspension of driving privileges.

Do I have to pay the full amount at one time to prevent suspension of my license?

No. Installment plans are available. Please contact Municipal Services Bureau (MSB) by phone at 1-800-688-6882 or by email at msb@txdps.state.tx.us for more information regarding installment agreements. A fee of \$2.50 will apply to each monthly payment. Please note that once an installment agreement has been made, failing to pay as agreed results in a default and driving privileges will be automatically suspended. You may reinstate a defaulted installment agreement once by submitting the minimum monthly payment. Should a second default occur, driving privileges will be automatically suspended until the balance is paid in full.

Contact Information

To obtain information regarding your convictions, a copy of your driving record may be purchased by completing the application form and mailing to the Department with the appropriate fee, or visiting the online service.

For full payment of a surcharge or to establish an installment agreement, please contact the Municipal Services Bureau at 1-(800)-688-6882. The Municipal Services Bureau is the vendor responsible for the mailing of surcharge notices and collection of all fees.

If you have additional questions regarding the surcharge program, you may visit our Frequently Asked Questions, or contact **Customer Service** at (512) 424-2600 or by email. For **Spanish**, please call (512) 424-7181.