



TIMELINE TO RESTORE PRIVILEGES/LICENSE

It is not unusual for it to take a low-income driver four to six weeks to reinstate driving privileges. The following describes some of the reasons for this.

1. If unpaid fines have caused a suspension:
 - If in Milwaukee Municipal Court, must appear in court and request release of suspensions and/or community service and/or a payment plan.
 - In other courts, must file written motion and request indigency hearing/leave to perform community service, and then must wait for the court to respond. In smaller courts, like Brookfield, Pewaukee, or Shorewood, it may take as long as two months to get a hearing.
 - Clients often take a number of weeks to collect the money needed to begin a payment plan (25% down in Milwaukee; 50% down in Racine in a recent case) and suspensions remain in place until they do.
 - If community service work is approved, courts often won't release the suspensions until the community service is completed.

2. If cases need to be reopened in order to become valid (because too many demerit points have caused a suspension, or because a conviction led to an insurance requirement which the client cannot afford):
 - Many courts require a reopening fee which must be paid before the judge will hear the case; they range between \$25 and \$75.
 - The requests to reopen have to be scheduled for a hearing, and some courts do not schedule them for several weeks.

3. If clients have uninsured auto accidents and are at fault:
 - They must negotiate a settlement with the other side or obtain a court-ordered payment plan, and then save up the funds to make the initial payment. Their alternative is to file for bankruptcy, which is difficult to do pro se and expensive to pay for (the filing fee alone is \$299).
 - They will be required to maintain a policy of SR-22 insurance for three years, which again takes some time to save up for the initial payment and is outside the reach of many of our clients.

4. If clients have drug suspensions resulting from criminal drug cases:
 - They must serve a suspension of at least six months.
 - The suspension does not begin until all other current suspensions have ended and the client actually applies for the license.

5. Most clients have cases in more than one jurisdiction which means that several courts may have to become involved in the solution:
 - This results in scheduling delays.
 - If multiple payment plans are required, they may need to be done sequentially because the client cannot afford more than one at a time.

6. If clients have never had a license, they must:
 - Come up with the necessary fees of about \$40.
 - Take the driving test, which involves delays of two to three months.