

SEATAC MUNICIPAL COURT

Your City.  Your Court.

“Driving Privileges”

Did you know.....?

- There are six types of Driver’s Licenses:
 - **Instruction Permit:** Allows you to drive a vehicle (not including motorcycles or commercial vehicles) with a licensed driver who has 5 years driving experience.
 - **Intermediate Driver License:** Must be 16 or 17 years old, subject to specific restrictions.
 - **Driver License:** You can drive a vehicle (not including motorcycles or commercial vehicles) under 26,001 pounds.
 - **Enhanced Driver License:** Grants the privileges of a regular driver’s license and the ability to enter US at land or sea border crossings.
 - **Motorcycle:** You can drive a motorcycle.
 - **Commercial Driver License (CDL):** There are 3 different CDL licenses (A, B, and C) which grant certain privileges, such as carrying 16 or more passengers, or hazardous materials, or driving vehicles towing trailers over a certain weight limit.

Ownership of a driver’s license is something most people eagerly anticipate as they reach the magic age of eligibility. It represents freedom of movement, the excitement of travel and endless possibilities of visiting family, friends, and surrounding communities. Vehicles transport us to work, school, weddings, parties, stores, restaurants, and untold adventures. Once we obtain a driver’s license, most of us take advantage of that privilege on a daily basis. So much so, that we can often take it for granted. Imagine what life would be like if you did not have the privilege to drive a motor vehicle.

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For more information about Driver’s License and Permit Requirements, see RCW 46.20 at www.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?Cite=46 , or go to DOL’s website at www.dol.wa.gov



“Electric Automobile on First Avenue, Seattle”

Feb. 7, 1908, Creator Asahel Curtis, Seattle, WA; Courtesy of Washington State Historical Society; Catalog ID Number 1943.42.9222



“Automobile trip in Waterville, WA”

1910, unknown photographer. Courtesy of Washington State Historical Society; Catalog ID Number 2015.30.61

Driving Privileges

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The Department of Licensing (DOL), by the authority of the State of Washington, grants us the privilege to drive when we reach a certain age, demonstrate that we have a basic knowledge of the rules of the road and vehicle requirements, and meet certain minimum physical requirements (acceptable vision, for example).

Did you know that the law requires that you update your address with DOL within ten days of a change of address? * Changing your address with the US Post Office when you move will not satisfy that requirement. If you are stopped by a law enforcement officer for a violation, he or she may issue you a ticket in person, or the officer may forward the ticket to the appropriate court. The court will then mail the notice of violation to your most current address with DOL. If your address is not current with DOL, and you do not respond to the ticket within 15 days, your privilege to drive may be suspended. If your privilege to drive is suspended, and you are stopped by a police officer, you may then face a criminal charge and incarceration. (Continued on next page....)

*RCW 46.20.205(1) states:

“Whenever any person....moves from the address named in the ...license....issued to him or her, the person shall within ten days thereafter notify the department of the address change. The notification must be in writing on a form provided by the department and must include the number of the person’s driver’s license. The written notification....is the exclusive means by which the address of record maintained by the department concerning the licensee....may be changed.”

Driving Privileges

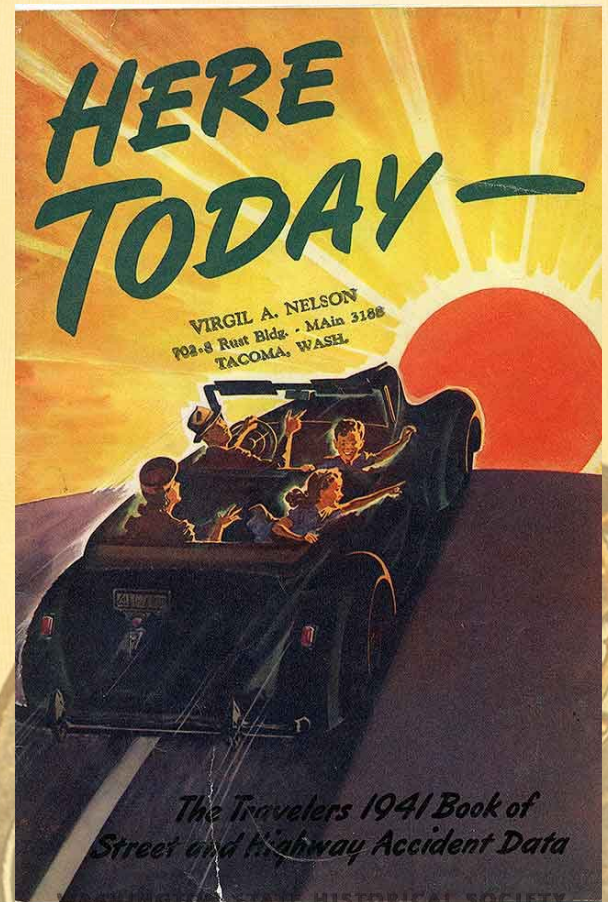
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Moreover, if DOL is going to take action against your driving privilege, it will send notice of the action to the most recent address in DOL records. If you do not respond timely because you did not receive notice, action will be taken against your driving privilege. It is presumed that notice is sufficient when it is sent to the last address of record in DOL's database.

As you can see, it is very important to ensure that DOL has your most current address. Many people who move frequently, or live in distress due to poverty often overlook this important duty. One traffic violation sent to an address that is not current can result in the loss of the privilege to drive, and an inability to easily access work, school, health care resources, child care resources, and other basic necessities.

Roughly one-third of all criminal cases in our state's District and Municipal Courts involve driver's license violations. Many of the cases involve people who are living at or below the poverty level and have difficulty making ends meet.

While this problem continues to grow, most courts and attorneys encourage re-licensing efforts, and some courts have developed re-licensing programs. While some people face seemingly insurmountable financial obligations, many courts allow the option to make full or partial payment through community service, on a case by case basis, in an effort to hold people accountable, while not compounding their financial distress.



For more information on how to change your address, your name, or your gender designation with the Department of Licensing, visit <http://www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/change.html?hcwp> and select the appropriate link.

“Here today—the travelers 1941 book of street and highway accident data” 1941, Travelers Insurance Company; Hartford, CT; Courtesy Washington State Historical Society, Catalog ID Number: 1994.1.3.142.1



“Automobile Accident, May 31, 1918”

1918, R.A. Standow,

Courtesy of Washington State Historical Society, Catalog Number 2015.30.45



“Highway Safety Demonstration” 1937, unknown photographer; Courtesy, Washington State Historical Society, Catalog ID Number: 2015.0.85



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