

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How will I know if I receive a surcharge for an offense?

You will receive a notice through the mail to your most recent address on file at DPS or to the most recent forwarding address with the United States Postal Service if it is different.

Reminder, it is required by statute (Texas Transportation Code §521.054) that you notify DPS within 30 days of when your address changes. To change your address online, visit www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense under "Online Services." The surcharge must be paid within 105 days to prevent suspension of your driving privileges.

Do I have to pay the full amount of the surcharge at one time?

You may pay the surcharge in installments but will be charged a \$2.50 service fee for each payment. Failing to make a monthly installment payment will result in suspension of your driving privileges. You may only reinstate a defaulted installment agreement by submitting the minimum monthly payment or paying the remaining balance in full.

What if I don't pay and my driving privileges are suspended?

If your driving privileges are suspended for failure to pay surcharges, the suspension will continue until you establish an installment agreement or pay all surcharges in full and any additional costs, such as service and/or collection fees.

FAQs *continued*

How do I pay my surcharge?

Under contract with DPS, the Municipal-Services Bureau (MSB) is responsible for mailing notices and collecting fees. Payments may be made online at www.txsurchargeonline.com, by phone, mail, or at ACE Cash Express, MoneyGram, or Western Union. Payment methods include cash, check, money order, credit/debit card, electronic check, and wire transfer. For more information on making payments, visit the website above, or contact MSB at (800) 688-6882.

Why did I get a phone call from the Municipal Services Bureau (MSB)?

As part of the DPS contract with MSB, the vendor may contact drivers who have not complied with the surcharge payment on behalf of DPS.

What if I receive a surcharge, but I already have a reinstatement fee?

Surcharges are applied *in addition* to reinstatement fees. This program does not replace other administrative suspension, cancellation, or revocation fees that result from the same convictions.

Make payments:

www.txsurchargeonline.com

Check license eligibility:

<https://txapps.texas.gov/txapp/txdps/dleligibility>

www.texas.gov/driver



Understanding the Driver Responsibility Program (DRP)



*Creating a faster, easier, friendlier
driver license experience
and a safer Texas*

What is DRP?

The Driver Responsibility Program (DRP) was enacted in 2003 and can be found in Chapter 708 of the Texas Transportation Code. DRP requires the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to apply surcharges to individuals with certain traffic convictions.

A surcharge is an administrative fee charged to a driver based on the number of **points** or **convictions** on the driver record. A driver may receive separate surcharges for both points and convictions.

Surcharges are applied in addition to other fees, i.e., administrative, SR-22, etc. and do not replace a suspension, revocation, disqualification, denial, or cancellation resulting from these convictions.

Point System

Points are applied for moving traffic violation convictions and remain on the driver record for *three years*. Points are assigned as follows:

| Points Assignment | |
|--|-----------------|
| Conviction Type | Assigned Points |
| Texas moving violation | 2 points |
| Out-of-state moving violation | 2 points |
| Texas moving violation resulting in a crash | 3 points |
| Out-of-state moving violation resulting in a crash | 3 points |

A surcharge is applied when a driver accumulates six (6) points or more. The driver must pay \$100 for the first six (6) points and \$25 for each additional point.

Every year, the surcharge will continue to be applied if the driver record has six (6) points or more. Point surcharges may vary with each yearly review if convictions are added or removed from the driver record.

Convictions

Drivers who are convicted of one or more of the offenses in the table below will pay a yearly surcharge for **three years** from the date of each conviction once the conviction has been reported to DPS.

No points are applied for these offenses since the surcharge is automatic upon conviction. Automatic surcharges are applied as follows:

| Conviction Surcharges | |
|---|--------------------|
| Conviction Type | Assigned Surcharge |
| Intoxication: 1 st offense, Texas or out-of state conviction for driving, intoxication assault, or manslaughter | \$1,000 |
| Intoxication: 2 nd , 3 rd , or more offenses, Texas or out-of-state conviction for driving, intoxication assault, or manslaughter | \$1,500 |
| DWI with blood alcohol concentration of 0.16 or greater, Texas or out-of-state conviction | \$2,000 |
| Driving without insurance | \$250 |
| Driving while license invalid: driver license is cancelled, suspended, denied renewal, or revoked | \$250 |
| Driving without a license, no driver license or commercial driver license, expired license, or endorsement violation(s) | \$100 |

Reduction Programs

Through the Indigency Program and the Incentive Program, drivers with unpaid surcharges may qualify for significant reductions of the amount they owe and maintain their driving privileges.

Any surcharges billed on or after September 1, 2011 may be considered for these reductions. Eligibility for the Indigency and Incentive Programs is based on total income as determined by the federal poverty level defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

| Indigency Program | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Poverty Level | Amount Owed Reduced to | Driving Privileges |
| 125% or less | 10%, not to exceed \$250 | Removes surcharge suspensions for 6 months |
| Incentive Program | | |
| Poverty Level | Amount Owed Reduced to | Driving Privileges |
| 126% to 300% | 50% | Removes surcharge suspensions for 6 months |

Under these programs, the new reduced balance must be paid in full within six months. If the balance is not paid in full by the due date, driving privileges will be suspended until it is. Partial payments plus a \$2.50 service fee will be accepted during the six month grace period.

To find out if you qualify and to learn about the application process, call 866-223-3583 or visit www.txsurchargeonline.com.