

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.

Why did I receive a notice saying I accrued 4 or 5 points?

This is an "Advisory" notice and is informational only. This notice lets the individual know that any additional traffic convictions will result in a point surcharge. No payment is required until a surcharge has been assessed for accumulating six or more points. These notices are sent to you by the Texas Department of Public Safety, not Municipal Services Bureau.

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?

Initial surcharges notices must be paid within 105 days or an individual's driver license will be suspended for failure to comply with the surcharge requirements. Individuals can pay all three years in advance, the 1st year in full, or enter into an installment agreement within the 105 days. The individual's driving privileges will remain suspended until an installment agreement is established or all surcharges and related costs are paid in full. Payments may be made online at www.txsurchargeonline.com, by phone, mail, or at ACE Cash Express, MoneyGram, or Western Union. Payment methods include, check, money order, credit/debit card, electronic check, and wire transfer. Make check or money order payment to MSB.

Mailing Address:
Surcharge Processing
PO Box 16733
Austin, Texas 78761-6733

Please allow three to five days for processing. For more information on making payments, visit www.txsurchargeonline.com or contact MSB at (800) 688-6882.

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 check or money order for surcharge payment to MSB and allow three days for processing.

Mailing Address:
Surcharge Processing
PO Box 16733
Austin, Texas 78761-6733

Check license eligibility:

<https://txapps.texas.gov/txapp/txdps/dleligibility>
www.texas.gov/driver
www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/drp.htm

DRIVER LICENSE DIVISION



Driver
Responsibility
Program

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 assessed when the driver has six or more points on his/her driver record within three years. The driver is required to pay \$100 surcharge for the first six points and an additional \$25 for every point after six. The surcharge is assessed every year the driver maintains six or more points. Point surcharges may vary with each yearly review as 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	Up to \$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)	Up to \$100

If you have recently received a conviction for driving without insurance or driving without a license, you may be eligible for a reduction of your surcharge. To learn more, please visit our website at: www.txsurchargeonline.com

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	Surcharge(s) are Waived	Removes surcharge suspensions only
Incentive Program		
Poverty Level	Amount Owed Reduced to	Driving Privileges
126% to 300%	50%	Removes surcharge suspensions for 6 months

Indigency and Incentive Programs

The Indigency program waives the surcharges owed for some individuals who have incomes at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

The Incentive program reduces the amount of surcharges owed for some individuals who have incomes above 125 percent and below 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

To learn more about program eligibility requirements, poverty guidelines, or the application process visit our website at:

www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/drp.htm
or call (866) 223-3583.