Louisiana Department of Public Safety
Office of Motor Vehicles
Policy 190.00 Hardship Plates

Section: 5. Motor Vehicle Plate Classifications and Requirements

Effective Date: 06/20/2024

Authority:
R.S. 32:415.2
To view Louisiana Statutes: http://www.legis.state.la.us/

Definitions:

- **Hardship Plate –** A plate, issued administratively in accordance with statutes or by order of the court, to a vehicle in which the vehicle owner's driving privileges are under suspension.
- **Livelihood –** A means of securing the necessities of life.
- **Necessity of Life –** The activities necessary to sustain life.
- **Notice of Suspension (NOS)** – A citation that may be issued when the operator, who is also the **sole owner** of the vehicle, is stopped for any reason and is driving with a suspended driver's license.

Eligibility:

- A hardship license plate may be issued to a vehicle if the removal of the vehicle's license plate and the suspension or revocation of the driving privileges will deprive his/her family or prevent them from earning a livelihood.[1]
- A hardship plate may only be issued to a vehicle, in which the owner was subject to a Notice of Suspension citation and has been flagged accordingly by the Office of Motor Vehicles.
    - The vehicle record will have a "*driving under suspension*" flag associated.
- The issuance of a hardship license plate allows for the vehicle to be legally operated on the roadway, but only a driver with a valid driver's license that is not suspended or revoked may operate the motor vehicle.
    - The issuance of a hardship plate is **not** an authorization to drive with a suspended driver's license.
- Eligible vehicle types for issuance of a hardship plate include:
    - Automobile/Van
    - Minimum Use Truck (6,000 lbs. or less)
    - Private Truck (up to 88,000 lbs.)
    - Motorcycle
- If a hardship plate is requested for a vehicle with one of the plate types below, the same type of plate will be issued, and the vehicle record will be flagged indicating hardship status.
    - Mobility Impaired plate
    - Hearing Impaired plate
    - Disabled Veteran plate
    - Forest plate
    - Gravel plate
    - City Use plate
    - Farm plate

Requirements:

- Applicants must visit a field office to obtain a hardship plate. Reinstatement services provided over the phone **cannot** assist with issuing a hardship plate.
- All non-mandatory suspensions and insurance violations must be cleared on the driver's license record
- Proof of current, valid insurance is required to obtain a plate

Fees:

- Standard plate fees associated with the vehicle type will be due.

Related Policies:

Section 2, Policy 4.01, Notice of Suspension
Section 4, Policy 69.00, Fees
Section 5, Policy 28.00, Truck and Tractor License Plates
Section 5, Policy 28.07, Minimum Weight Truck Plates
Section 5, Policy 38.00, Automobile License Plates
Section 5, Policy 153.00, Motorcycle Plates