



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](#)