Louisiana Department of Public Safety

Office of Motor Vehicles

2-3.00 Special Licenses

Revised: 09/09/2025

Purpose

This policy describes the requirements for hardship licenses, violations of hardship restrictions, ex-offender provisional driver's licenses, and court ordered temporary driving permits for payment of criminal or traffic fines.

Definitions

- **CAJUN –** Louisiana Department of Corrections program utilized by Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles to verify eligibility
- **Ex-Offender -** A person released from incarceration, including (but not limited to) any individual who is housed in a federal residential reentry management center, also known as a halfway house
- **Hardship License** – A restricted license issued to an individual whose driving privileges are under suspension. This license allows the individual to drive during the period of suspension to earn a livelihood or to maintain the necessities of life. In many instances, the installation of an ignition Interlock device is required.
- **Hardship Restriction Violation** – A violation of the restrictions imposed on a driver due to the issuance of a hardship license. Evidence such as an accident, early termination of the ignition interlock device, or a conviction for improper passing, DWI, or speeding, etc., may be used to determine if a driver has violated the restrictions under which the hardship license was issued. If a restriction has been violated, a suspension will be imposed. The type of suspension is dependent upon the reason for the hardship issuance.
- **Ignition Interlock Device** – An in-car breath-alcohol screening device that is connected to the vehicle's engine ignition system and prevents the vehicle from starting if the device detects a blood alcohol level at or above a preset limit.
- **Lease and Installation Agreement** – Documented proof that the ignition interlock device has been properly leased and installed in a vehicle.
- **Livelihood** - A means of securing the necessities of life (i.e. job, other source of income, etc.)
- **Necessity of Life** – The activities necessary to sustain life.
- **Provisional –** The type of license being issued to an ex-offender for only one (1) year
- **Pseudo** - A record created that contains suspensions or revocations
- **SR-22 Filing** – A certificate of liability insurance from an insurance company authorized to do business in Louisiana. If a vehicle is not owned by the applicant, a non-ownership policy may be issued. An SR-22 binder with the binder clause and number can be accepted in lieu of the original SR-22 filing for ninety (90) days only. An SR-22 filing may be required on a Refusal of a chemical test or *Driving While Intoxicated* conviction before issuance of a hardship license.

Hardship License Requirements

Authority:
R.S. 9:315.45
R.S. 32:378.2
R.S. 32:414
R.S. 32:415.1
R.S. 32:430
R.S. 32:431
R.S. 32:667-668
To view Louisiana Statutes: http://www.legis.state.la.us/

Eligibility:

- **Violations Eligible for Issuance of a Hardship License**

Court Order or Ignition Interlock Not Required	**Court Order or Ignition Interlock Required** (Only the vehicle equipped with an approved interlock device can be driven by the individual.)
School Bus Violation, 1st Offense	Submit to the Breath Alcohol Content Test
Unlawful Use, 1st Offense	Refusal of a Chemical Test for Intoxication
Child Support Enforcement (if recommended by Department of Social Services)	Driving while Intoxicated
Child Support Enforcement (if recommended by Department of Social Services)	Vehicular Negligent Injury
Driving Under Suspension (Non-Alcohol Related) as a result of: • Out-of-State Affidavit • Written Promise • In Lieu of • TESS Affidavit • DOTD Affidavits	Driving Under Suspension, Alcohol Related (was under suspension for an alcohol offense on the date of violation)
Nonpayment of Income Taxes	
School Rule Infraction	

- **Court Ordered Hardship License**
    - An economic or medical hardship license may be issued if the individual has petitioned the district court located in the parish in which they reside and the court has ordered the Department to issue the license.
    - Any change in the restrictions on a court order during the hardship period would require the individual to petition the court granting approval for the change. Upon receipt of an amended judgment approving the change in restrictions, the hardship will be updated accordingly. The restriction may be updated at any field office.

Requirements:

- **Documentation that may be required of issuance of a hardship license:**
    - SR-22 Filing
    - Ignition Interlock Lease and Installation Agreement
    - Recommendation letter from Support Services

- Court Order/Judgment
- If driving an employer's vehicle in the scope of employment, the court may allow the individual to operate the company vehicle without the interlock device.
  - Documentation from the court must be provided.
  - The employer must provide a written statement that they (the employer) are aware that the employee is restricted to driving their personal vehicle that is equipped with the interlock device. The statement allows the individual to drive a company vehicle that does not have the interlock installed. However, if the applicant owns the company and drives the company vehicle, the interlock must be installed in that vehicle.

- A hardship license may be issued in a field office. Applicants may contact the Office of Motor Vehicles at (225) 925-6146 to determine specific eligibility and requirements, prior to visiting a field office.
- A hardship license may **only** be issued for an operator's license (Class E) or chauffer's license (Class D). A hardship may **not** be issued for a commercial driver's license (CDL) (Classes A, B, or C). To acquire a hardship, a CDL holder must downgrade to a Class E or Class D.
- If licensed and suspended in another state, a hardship license may **not** be issued. Requirements with the issuing state must be met before a Louisiana license may be issued.
- If a Louisiana resident has a suspended Louisiana record, a hardship license may be issued if the applicable requirements are met.
- **Duplicate Hardship License -** A copy of the judgment or Application for Restricted Hardship License will be required.
- **Expiration of a Hardship License –** Visit a field office to renew the hardship license. If the office is closed on the date of expiration, the license may be renewed on the last business day **before** expiration.
- **Violation of Hardship Restrictions –** If a hardship restriction violation occurs, penalties may be imposed.
- **Approved Interlock Manufacturers and Installers –** For a list of approved interlock manufacturers and installers, visit http://dpsweb.dps.louisiana.gov/OMVInterlock.nsf/$web

Violation of Hardship Restrictions

Authority:
R.S.32:414
R.S.32:415
R.S.32:415.1
R.S.32:430(I)
R.S.32:668 B(2)
To view Louisiana Statutes: http://www.legis.state.la.us/

Compliance:

- If the driver was issued a hardship for a Submit or Refusal violation, he is required to serve a mandatory 6-month suspension without the benefit of any license. This suspension time will run concurrently with the suspension for submit or refusal.

- If the driver was issued a hardship license for a DWI violation, he will have a one-year suspension added to the record in addition to any other suspensions that he may be serving.

Fees:

$60.00 reinstatement fee

Ex-Offender Provisional Driver's License

Authority:

R.S. 32:415.3

General:

- Eligible individuals may acquire a one-year Class E driver's license or Temporary Instructional Permit (TIP), if the individual has met all of the following criteria:
    - Has been released from incarceration after serving a minimum of one year
    - Has a Louisiana license or pseudo that is currently suspended, revoked, or cancelled out-of-state
- If a higher class license (chauffer's or commercial driver's license (CDL)), it must be downgraded to a class E, and no motorcycle endorsement is allowed. The Department must defer the payment of all reinstatement fees that were incurred prior to or during the term of incarceration for the duration of the license.

Requirements:

- Proof of release from incarceration from your probation office or incarceration facility is required, which must state that you were incarcerated for a minimum of one year and that you were not imprisoned for vehicular homicide or 3rd or subsequent DWI.
    - The Department may check the CAJUN system for verification. If not in the CAJUN system, you must provide the proof of release.
- Only one provisional license shall be issued to an individual per lifetime.
- **Individuals are not eligible if:**
    - Imprisoned for vehicular homicide
    - Imprisoned for a 3rd or subsequent violation of operating a vehicle while intoxicated, or a 3rd or subsequent violation of any other statute, or ordinance that prohibits operating a vehicle while intoxicated
    - Is suspended, revoked, in another jurisdiction (state)
    - Currently serving a suspension for a violation that carries a mandatory suspension period (i.e., DWI, Driving under Suspension, etc.)
    - Previously issued a provisional license
- The provisional license will be revoked if the licensee commits one of the following:
    - A new offense

- An act or omission that causes the community supervision, mandatory supervision, or parole of the licensee to be revoked

Fees:

- Applicable fees are required for issuance, no additional fees.

Court Ordered Temporary Driving Permit for Payment of Criminal or Traffic Fines

Authority:
R.S. 32:411H
CCRP ART#885.1
To view Louisiana Statues: http://www.legis.state.la.us/

General

- This type of permit is a temporary driving permit issued at the discretion of the court when a fine has been levied and an extension granted to allow an individual to make installment payments for any criminal offense or violation of the Louisiana Highway Regulatory Act or any municipal or parish ordinance regulating traffic. The court may order the surrender of the operator's license and issuance of the temporary driving permit for a period not to exceed 180 days or for a period of time as set forth by the judge having jurisdiction.
- The temporary driving permit books are furnished free of charge to any court.
- Inquiries on how to obtain these permits should be directed to the Court/Agency Ordered Withdrawal Unit.

Compliance:

- The violator must provide final disposition from the court and must then pay a $60.00 reinstatement fee.