



Louisiana Department of Public Safety
Office of Motor Vehicles
Policy 30.00 Hardship License Requirements

Section: 2. Driver's License Laws

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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/>

Definitions:

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

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, 1 st Offense	Submit to the Breath Alcohol Content Test
Unlawful Use, 1 st Offense	Refusal of a Chemical Test for Intoxication
Child Support Enforcement (if recommended by Department of Social Services)	Driving while Intoxicated
Driving Under Suspension (Non-Alcohol Related) as a result of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out-of-State Affidavit • Written Promise • In Lieu of • TESS Affidavit • DOTD Affidavits 	Vehicular Negligent Injury
Nonpayment of Income Taxes	Driving Under Suspension, Alcohol Related (was under suspension for an alcohol offense on the date of violation)
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](http://dpsweb.dps.louisiana.gov/OMVInterlock.nsf/$web).

Related Policies:

- Section 2, Policy 8.00 [DWI - UDUI](#)
- Section 2, Policy 11.00 [Submit - Refusal](#)
- Section 2, Policy 11.09 [Ignition Interlock As A Condition Of Reinstatement](#)
- Section 2, Policy 11.10 [Violation Of Interlock Requirements - Condition Of Reinstatement](#)
- Section 2, Policy 13.00 [By Order Of The Department Recommended By The Court](#)
- Section 2, Policy 13.04 [Purchase Or Possession Of Alcohol](#)
- Section 2, Policy 24.01 [Vehicular Negligent Injury](#)
- Section 2, Policy 26.01 [Unlawful Use Of A Driver's License, Court Conviction](#)
- Section 2, Policy 31.00 [Violation Of Hardship Restrictions](#)
- Section 2, Policy 33.00 [Driving While Suspended - Departmental Act](#)
- Section 2, Policy 40.00 [Failure To Stop For School Bus Loading & Unloading Children](#)
- Section 2, Policy 41.00 [Nonpayment Of Child Support](#)
- Section 2, Policy 49.00 [Denial Of Driving Privileges](#)
- Section 2, Policy 49.01 [Denial Of Driving Privileges Of The Young](#)
- Section 2, Policy 54.00 [School Rule Infractions - Driving Is A Privilege](#)