



Louisiana Department of Public Safety  
Office of Motor Vehicles  
**Policy 1.01 Written Promise Affidavit**

**Section:** 2. Driver's License Laws

**Effective Date:** 10/25/1988

**Revised Date:** 03/27/2025

**Authority:**

[R.S. 32:57.1](#)

[R.S. 32:391](#)

[R.S. 32:414\(Q\)](#)

[CCRP 885.1](#)

To view Louisiana Statutes: <http://www.legis.state.la.us/>

**Definitions:**

- **Written Promise** – When the individual signs the traffic ticket issued by a law enforcement officer, giving the individual's written promise to appear in court at the date and time specified on the ticket in lieu of posting a bond or surrendering their driver's license.
- **Written Promise Affidavit AKA Failure to Appear (FTA)** – Issued by the reporting court stating the individual failed to pay the traffic ticket by the appointed court date or failed to appear in court on the appointed court date.

**General:**

- The court may immediately submit the failure to appear to the Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV). However, the failure to appear must be received by OMV:
  - **Operator (Class E) or Chauffeur's License (Class D)** – Must be received within two (2) years of the violation date
  - **Commercial Driver's License (Classes A, B, or C)** – Must be received within ten (10) days of the missed court date. A written promise affidavit that was issued to a licensed commercial driver shall be accepted and processed, regardless of the date the affidavit was received.
- If a continuance or new court date is granted and the individual fails to appear on the new/rescheduled court date, the failure to appear does not qualify for a suspension under R.S. [32:57.1](#).
- If the individual fails to pay the fine after the entry of a plea or after a trial, the court will need to submit a court ordered suspension for failure to pay criminal fines as pursuant to R.S. [32:414\(Q\)](#) and [CCRP 885.1](#).

**Compliance:**

- **One** of the following is required from the court that issued the written promise affidavit:
  - Proof of payment of the fine or proof that the individual has entered into an installment plan with the court to pay the fine
  - Final disposition of the traffic ticket

- Court documents showing a continuance or new court date

**Fees:**

- If compliance is received **180 days after** the first official notice, a \$100 reinstatement fee is owed per traffic ticket, in addition to fee(s) owed for other statutory requirements<sup>1</sup>.

**Related Policies:**

Section 2 Policy 4.00, [Suspension and/or Disqualification Dates](#)

Section 2 Policy 29.00, [Eligibility of Hearings and Hardship by Statutes and Driver's License Class](#)

Section 2 Policy 36.00, [Driver Management Fees](#)

**References:**

- <sup>1</sup> – Louisiana State Legislature, *Failure to Honor Written Promise to Appear; Penalty; Disposition of Fees* (R.S. 32:57.1), retrieved from <https://legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=88473>.