

CHAPTER 11 — THE POINT SYSTEM AND HOW IT AFFECTS YOU

Driving is a privilege, not a right. You can lose your driving privilege if you disobey the traffic laws. When you are convicted of a traffic violation, while your vehicle was in motion, the department receives notice and adds points to your driving record. This isn't like a football or basketball game — you don't want these points. You can lose your driving privilege when you accumulate too many points.

The number of points you receive depends on the conviction. For example, you may receive 2 or 3 points if you are convicted of speeding (depending on if the court was municipal, county, or state level). By contrast, you may receive 12 points and the revocation of your driving privilege if you are convicted of leaving the scene of an accident.

The following are examples of some state law violations and the point values associated with them:

Violation	Point Value
Speeding	3 points
Careless & Imprudent Driving	4 points
Knowingly Allowing an Unlicensed Driver to Operate a Vehicle	4 points
A Felony Involving a Motor Vehicle	12 points
Obtaining a Driver License by Misrepresentation	12 points
Operating a Vehicle with a Suspended or Revoked Driver License	12 points

RACKING UP POINTS: THE CONSEQUENCES

If you accumulate a total of 4 points in 12 months, the department will send you a point accumulation advisory.

If you accumulate a total of 8 or more points in 18 months, your driving privilege will be suspended. Below are the consequences for accumulating 8 points in 18 months:

- 1st suspension — 30 days
- 2nd suspension — 60 days
- 3rd (or subsequent) suspension — 90 days

Your driving privilege will be revoked for one year if you accumulate:

- 12 or more points in 12 months
- 18 or more points in 24 months
- 24 or more points in 36 months

Depending on whether your suspension or revocation was related to alcohol, there are different reinstatement requirements.

For a non-alcohol related point suspension/revocation, you will need to:

- Submit proof of insurance (SR-22) and
- A \$20 reinstatement fee.

For an alcohol-related point suspension/revocation, you will need to submit the reinstatement requirements on page 80.

Details about submitting proof of insurance (SR-22) can be found in Chapter 13, Mandatory Insurance.

HOW POINTS COME OFF YOUR DRIVING RECORD

When your driving privilege is reinstated, the department reduces your total points to 4. Every year you drive without getting new points on your record, the points will be reduced.

- After 1 year — Remaining points will be reduced by one-third
- After 2 years — Remaining points will be reduced by one-half
- After 3 years — Points reduced to zero

Although your points may be reduced to zero, certain convictions must remain listed permanently on your driving record.

OTHER CONSEQUENCES

Driving While Your License is Suspended or Revoked

If you drive while your license is suspended, your driving privilege may be revoked for one year after you are convicted. If you continue to drive while your license is revoked, you may be convicted of a felony and have your license revoked again for one year.

Failure to Appear in Court for Traffic Violations (FACT)

When you fail to appear in court for a traffic violation, the court will notify you within 10 days of your failure to comply. The court will give you 30 days to pay the fines before the court notifies the Driver License Bureau. If you do not comply within 30 days, the court will notify the Driver License Bureau of your failure to comply, and your driving privilege will be suspended immediately.

If this happens to you, your driving privilege will be suspended until the Bureau receives:

- Proof that the ticket is paid and
- A \$20 reinstatement fee.

If your license is suspended for FACT, you may get your driving privilege reinstated in one of three ways.

1. Take the reinstatement requirements to a license office. The information will be faxed to the Driver License Bureau in Jefferson City for review. A reinstatement letter will be prepared and faxed to the license office to be

given to you. If your driver license was previously surrendered, a temporary driving receipt will also be faxed. Your driver license will be mailed to you from the Driver License Bureau in Jefferson City.

2. Mail the reinstatement requirements to the Driver License Bureau, P.O. Box 3950, Jefferson City, Missouri 65105-3950.
3. Bring the reinstatement requirements to the Driver License Bureau in the Harry S Truman State Office Building at 301 West High Street, Jefferson City, Missouri, in Room 470. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (except holidays).