

HARDSHIP DRIVER LICENSES¹

The inability to drive because of a suspended or revoked driver license creates a significant barrier to employment. Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Inc. assists qualified applicants obtain a “hardship” license that allows them to drive for employment, business or education purposes only during the revocation or suspension period.

Are all drivers eligible?

No. Eligibility depends on the law for the offenses that caused the suspension or revocation. No hardship license is available to a driver whose license is suspended or revoked for failure to maintain insurance that is required by Florida law. In addition, drivers with more than one DUI conviction may not be eligible for hardship licenses depending on the number of DUI convictions and the length of time between them.

Is there a waiting period before eligibility for a hardship license?

It depends on the reason the license was suspended or revoked. In some cases, you can apply for a hardship license immediately. Waiting periods apply where a license was suspended or revoked because of alcohol or drug-related offenses or because of being a habitual offender. In addition, the waiting period is extended if additional offenses occur, such as driving on a suspended or revoked license.

Are there any other requirements for qualification?

Yes. Generally, you must present evidence at a hearing that being without a driver license creates a hardship because you are unable to work or continue your education. In addition, if your license is revoked because of a DUI offense but you qualify to apply for a hardship license, you may be required to attend a certified DUI school at your own expense and participate in a monitoring program.

Will tickets obtained in other states affect my Florida license?

Yes. The out-of-state tickets will be reported to your Florida driving record. If the ticket is for an offense that would cause points to be charged to your license if it had occurred in Florida, your license will be charged points. Florida law does not allow those points to be removed by attending a school or program. In addition, unpaid tickets from other states can cause your Florida driver license to be revoked.

What do I do if a ticket is incorrectly listed on my Florida driving record?

Contact the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Customer Service Center. See www.hsmv.state.fl.us for contact information.

Where can I get help?

Call Jacksonville Area Legal Aid at 356-8371 for information on applying for help.

**JACKSONVILLE AREA LEGAL AID, INC.
Employment Law Project**

¹ The information provided here is general in nature and not intended as legal advice. The laws discussed are subject to change without notice. Seek legal advice for more information.