

PROBATIONARY LICENSE FACT SHEET



Q: What is a Probationary License?

A: A Probationary License (PL) is a Class C (*Non-Commercial*) driver's license issued once in a lifetime to an individual whose Pennsylvania driving privilege has been suspended or revoked for five or more years. This license authorizes driving a non-commercial vehicle between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The Department will consider additional hours upon request. A PL cannot be used to drive a commercial vehicle, motorcycle or moped.

Q: Can anybody who is suspended qualify?

A: No. To qualify for a PL, you must have served and consecutively earned credit toward a portion of your suspension/revocation period and your driving record must be free of driving offenses to demonstrate that you have not driven during the minimum period of suspension/revocation. This minimum period (from 3 to 6 years) is determined by the number of violations that caused the current suspension/revocation of your driving privilege. In addition, any outstanding citations, judgments, examinations or hearings must first be satisfied.

Q: How much of my suspension/revocation term must I serve before I am eligible to apply?

A: Generally, a person with 1 to 7 violations must have earned credit for at least a 3 year term of suspension or revocation; 8 to 14 violations require that credit be earned for at least a 4 year period; 15 to 21 violations require that credit be earned for at least a 5 year period; and 22 or more violations require that credit be earned for at least a 6 year period.

Q: I never held a Pennsylvania Driver's License or Learner's Permit. Can I qualify?

A: Yes. If you are not licensed to drive in this or any other state, you must apply for a class C learner's permit. Thirty days after the issuance of the learner's permit you will be eligible to test for a driver's license. Upon successfully passing all exams, the Department will issue a PL.

Q: Does a DUI, DUI related offense, or death or personal injury offense disqualify me?

A: Maybe. If you have been convicted of DUI, granted ARD for DUI, aggravated assault by vehicle with DUI, driving under suspension with DUI, suspended for refusal to submit to chemical testing, or offense for death or personal injury without a license within the preceding 7 years, you are not eligible for a PL until the 7 years have passed. If you have ever been convicted of homicide by vehicle or homicide by vehicle while DUI, you are permanently prohibited from obtaining a PL.

Q: If I have served my minimum 3, 4, 5, or 6 years of my suspension/revocation, does that clear the way for me to apply for the Probationary License?

A: Yes, but the application is only the first step in the overall eligibility process.

Q: How do I apply?

A: To apply for a PL, you must complete a Probationary License Petition (form DL-20). To prevent a delay or rejection, all requested information must be completed, and all appropriate fees and documents must be attached.

Q: What is the cost?

A: The cost of applying for a PL is \$25. This fee is non-refundable. In addition, the PL itself costs \$60.25 yearly. The initial fee is a total of \$85.25. If your request for a PL is not approved, the \$60.25 fee will be refunded to you. Any unpaid restoration fee must also be paid at the time you submit your DL-20 form. See the following chart for additional information:

PROBATIONARY/ LIMITED LICENSES	TOTAL	APPLICATION FEE	PETITION FEE	LICENSE FEE	PHOTO FEE
Probationary License	85.25	50.00	25.00	5.25	5.00
Renew - Probationary License	60.25	50.00	---	5.25	5.00
Duplicate Probationary License	10.00	5.00	---	---	5.00
Duplicate Probationary License w/ Class M	15.00	5.00	---	5.00	5.00

Q: After I submit my application, what happens next?

A: Upon receipt of your DL-20 form, the Department will review your petition and driving history to determine your eligibility for a PL. You will be advised of our determination within 30 days. If we determine that you meet the initial criteria for a PL, you will be scheduled for a Departmental Review session. Applicants may request additional hours at this session. Documentation to support the need for additional hours should be presented at this time. Following the review and the completion of any required testing, the Department will make a recommendation regarding issuance of your PL.

Q: For how long is the Probationary License issued?

A: A PL is issued for a 1 year period determined by the actual date of the first issuance.

Q: What happens next year?

A: If you have complied with the provisions of the PL, you will be invited to renew your PL approximately 30 days before it expires. However, if your PL had been recalled, you will be required to attend a Department review before the PL can be renewed.

Q: If my request is denied, or my PL is subsequently cancelled or recalled, what can I do?

A: You may appeal the denial, recall or cancellation by filing a petition with the Department requesting an Administrative Hearing. The cost for this Administrative Hearing is \$100.00 and is non-refundable. Additional information regarding this filing process will be provided upon request.

Q: What happens if I commit a violation?

A: If you are convicted of an offense for which the penalty is suspension, cancellation, disqualification, or revocation of your driving privilege, your PL will be cancelled. If you are convicted of a "point" violation, your PL will be recalled for 30 days for each point accumulated. In any case, you must surrender your PL to the Department.

Q: Can I get a Probationary License for the duration of my suspension/revocation period?

A: You may renew your PL for up to 6 years. Upon completion of the 6th year, you will become eligible to apply for a regular driver's license.

Q: This seems like awfully tough criteria to meet?

A: It is, however, please recognize that the Probationary License is available to only those individuals who have earned it by demonstrating a minimum period of compliance to their suspension/revocation. In many cases, this license will enable you to rejoin the mainstream of social and employment opportunities and reap the benefits from this "second chance."

Q: Where do I write to get further information?

A: You may write to the following address:

PA Department of Transportation
Bureau of Driver Licensing
OLL/PL Unit
P.O. Box 68689
Harrisburg, PA 17106-8689

A customer service representative will get back to you. Be sure to include a daytime telephone number in your letter.