

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How will I know if I received a surcharge for an offense?

A notice will be mailed to your most recent address on file at DPS or to the most recent forwarding address with the United States Postal Service if it is different. It is important that you notify DPS when your address changes to ensure delivery of your surcharge notices. To change your address online, visit www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense under "Online Services." The surcharge must be paid within 105 days to prevent suspension of driving privileges.

Do I have to pay the full amount of the surcharge at one time?

You may pay the surcharge in installments but will be charged a \$2.50 service fee for each payment. Failing to make a monthly payment will result in suspension of your driving privileges. You may only reinstate a defaulted installment agreement by submitting the minimum monthly payment or paying the remaining balance in full.

What if I don't pay and my driving privileges are suspended?

If driving privileges are suspended for failure to pay surcharges, the suspension will continue until the driver establishes an installment agreement or pays all surcharges in full and related costs, such as service and/or collection fees.

FAQs *continued*

How do I pay my surcharge?

The Municipal Services Bureau (MSB) is responsible for mailing notices and collecting fees. Payments may be made online at www.txsurchargeonline.com, by phone, mail, or at ACE Cash Express, MoneyGram, or Western Union. Payment methods include cash, check, money order, credit/debit card, electronic check, and wire transfer. For more information on making payments, visit the website above, or contact MSB at (800) 688-6882.

Why did I get a phone call from the Municipal Services Bureau (MSB)?

MSB will contact drivers, who have not complied with the surcharge payment, on behalf of DPS.

What if I receive a surcharge, but I already have a reinstatement fee?

Surcharges are applied *in addition* to reinstatement fees. This program does not replace other administrative suspension, cancellation, or revocation fees that result from the same convictions.

Make payments:

www.txsurchargeonline.com

Check license eligibility:

<https://txapps.texas.gov/txapp/txdps/dleligibility>

www.texas.gov/driver

Texas Driver Responsibility Program (DRP)

Understanding the Driver Responsibility Program



www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/drp.htm

DRIVER LICENSE DIVISION

Creating a faster, easier, friendlier
driver license experience
and a safer Texas

What is DRP?[†]

The Driver Responsibility Program (DRP) requires the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to apply surcharges to individuals with certain traffic convictions.

A surcharge is an administrative fee charged to a driver based on the number of points or convictions on the driver record. A driver may receive separate surcharges for both points and convictions.

Surcharges are applied in addition to other fees and do not replace a suspension, revocation, disqualification, denial, or cancellation resulting from these convictions.

Point System

Points are applied for moving traffic violation convictions and remain on the driver record for *three years*. Points are assigned as follows:

Points Assignment	
Conviction Type	Assigned Points
Texas moving violation	2 points
Out-of-state moving violation	2 points
Texas moving violation resulting in a crash	3 points
Out-of-state moving violation resulting in a crash	3 points

A surcharge is applied when a driver accumulates six (6) points or more. The driver must pay \$100 for the first six (6) points and \$25 for each additional point.

Every year, the surcharge will continue to be applied if the driver record has six (6) points or more. Point surcharges may vary with each yearly review if convictions are added or removed from the driver record.

Convictions

Drivers who are convicted of one or more of the offenses in the table below will pay a yearly surcharge for *three years* from the date of each conviction once the conviction has been reported to DPS.

No points are applied for these offenses since the surcharge is automatic upon conviction. Surcharges are applied as follows:

Conviction Surcharges	
Conviction Type	Assigned Surcharge
Intoxication: 1 st offense, Texas or out-of state conviction for driving, boating, flying, operating amusement park ride, intoxication assault, or manslaughter	\$1,000
Intoxication: 2 nd , 3 rd , or more offenses, Texas or out-of-state conviction for driving, boating, flying, operating amusement park ride, intoxication assault, or manslaughter	\$1,500
DWI with blood alcohol concentration of 0.16 or greater, Texas or out-of-state conviction	\$2,000
Driving without insurance	\$250
Driving with invalid license: Driver license is canceled, suspended, denied or revoked	\$250
Driving without a license, no driver license or commercial driver license, expired license, or endorsement violation(s)	\$100

Reduction Programs

Through the Indigency Program and the Incentive Program, drivers with unpaid surcharges may qualify for significant reductions of the amount they owe and maintain their driving privileges.

Any surcharges billed on or after September 1, 2003 may be considered for these reductions. Eligibility for the Indigency and Incentive Programs is based on total income as determined by the federal poverty level defined by the US Department of Health and Human Services.

Indigency Program		
Poverty Level	Amount Owed Reduced to	Driving Privileges
125% or less	10%, not to exceed \$250	Removes surcharge suspensions* for 6 months
Incentive Program		
Poverty Level	Amount Owed Reduced to	Driving Privileges
126% to 300%	50%	Removes surcharge suspensions* for 6 months

Under these programs, the new reduced balance must be paid in full within six months. If the balance is not paid in full by the due date, driving privileges will be suspended until it is. Partial payments plus a \$2.50 service fee will be accepted during the six month grace period.

To find out if you qualify and to learn about the application process, call 866-223-3583 or visit www.txsurchargeonline.com.

* No effect on other suspensions.

[†] DRP was enacted in 2003 and can be found in Chapter 708 of the Texas Transportation Code.