

DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY FEES

Driver Responsibility Fees were originally created to fill a \$23 Million Dollars hole in the State of Michigan's budget. That was in 2003. To date, the hole having become a bottomless pit, as of early 2011 the State has collected over \$600 Million Dollars in these fees, about half of what has been assessed. That's why I call them a state fund raiser as that is all they are.

True, the State Legislature, following the lead of New Jersey, tried, with a straight face no doubt, to claim the fees would make for better drivers. Quite frankly, the only thing they have accomplished is more drivers on the road with suspended licenses. That being said, what triggers a Driver Responsibility Fee and how do you handle it?

QUALIFYING OFFENSES

What offenses cause you to get charged a Driver Responsibility Fee?

Points on your record: You "qualify" to receive a \$100.00 assessment when you reach 7 active points. Each point after that "qualifies" you to pay an additional \$50.00.

Assessed \$1,000 per year for two years

- CDL Manufacture/Distribute a Control Substance
- Fail to Use Due Care Causing Death of Person Operating Implement of Husbandry
- Fail to Use Due Care Causing Injury of Person Operating Implement of Husbandry
- Failed to Stop After P.I. Accident
- Failed to Stop or Identify After P.D. Accident
- Failed to Stop or Identify After P.I. Accident Causing Serious Impairment of a Body Function
- Failure to Stop or Identify After P.I. Accident Causing Death
- Failure to Use Due Care and Caution Causing Death of a Construction Worker
- Failure to Use Due Care and Caution Causing Injury of a Construction Worker
- Failure to Yield For an Emergency Responder Causing Death
- Failure to Yield For an Emergency Responder Causing Injury
- Fatality Through Negligent or Criminal Operation of a CMV
- Felonious Driving
- Felony With Auto Used
- Felony/Auto Used
- Fleeing and Eluding officer 1st Degree - Causing Death
- Fleeing and Eluding Officer 2nd Degree - Causing Serious Injury
- Fleeing and Eluding Officer 3rd Degree
- Fleeing and Eluding Officer 4th Degree
- Manslaughter
- Murder/Auto Used

- Negligent Homicide
- Operated Commercial Motor Vehicle with BAC .04 .07
- Operated While Intoxicated or While Impaired By Controlled Substance Causing Death
- Operated While Intoxicated or While Impaired By Controlled Substance Causing Serious Injury
- Operated While Intoxicated or While Impaired By Liquor Causing Death of An Emergency Responder
- Operated While Intoxicated or While Impaired By Liquor Causing Serious Injury
- Operating While Intoxicated
- Operating While Intoxicated or While Impaired Causing Death
- ORV - Allowed Person Under Influence Alcohol/Controlled Substance To Operate
- ORV - Combined Operated Under Influence Liquor/Controlled Substance
- ORV - Combined Operated Under Influence Liquor/Unlawful Bodily Alcohol Content
- ORV - Operated Under Influence of Controlled Substance
- ORV - Operated Under the Influence of Liquor
- ORV - OUIL/OUID/OWI Causing Death
- ORV - OUIL/OUID/OWI Causing Serious Impairment of A Body Function
- ORV - Unlawful Bodily Alcohol Content (.10)
- Snowmobile - Felony/Snowmobile Used
- Snowmobile - Operating Under the Influence of Controlled Substance Causing Death
- Snowmobile - Operating Under the Influence of Controlled Substance Causing Serious Impairment of A Body Function
- Snowmobile - OUIL Causing Death
- Snowmobile - OUIL Causing Serious Impairment of A Body Function
- Unlawful Driving Away Auto

Assessed \$500 per year for two years

- Child Endangerment
- Combined OWI and Controlled Substance
- Drove Commercial Motor Vehicle While Disqualified
- Drove While License Suspended/Revoked/Denied (DWLS)
- DWLS Causing Death
- DWLS Causing Serious Injury
- No Insurance Under The Insurance Code
- Operated While Impaired By Controlled Substance
- Operating While Impaired By Liquor
- Operating With Presence of Drugs (OWPD)
- Person Under 21 With BAC
- Reckless Driving

Assessed \$200 per year for two years

- No Proof of Insurance
- No Insurance

Assessed \$150 per year for two years

- Drove w/o Proper License/Endorsement/Vehicle Group Designator
- Drove While License Expired
- Drove While Unlicensed or License Not Valid

This list may also be found at <http://michigan.gov/driverresponsibility/0,1607,7-213-32169---,00.html>.

It is important to note that any points assessed your driving record for any of the above offenses do not count toward the points that qualify you to be assessed for points on your record.

YOU HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE DRIVER RESPONSIBILITY FEE ASSESSMENT – NOW WHAT?

Don't ignore the notice. If you do not pay it the State will suspend your driving privileges.

You can make payment arrangements with the State. As long as you keep up with the payments your license remains valid.

You cannot pay a Driver Responsibility Fee at the Secretary of State. Why? Because that would be far too easy and probably make sense. That's why you can't. you can't pay them at the local court either. Same reason.

Payment arrangements must be made through the State of Michigan Treasury Department. You can call (517) 636-5240. If your license has been suspended because of a failure to pay a Driver Responsibility Fee call 1-800-950-6227 to make payment arrangements. If your license is suspended for a Driver Responsibility Fee assessed during the past years, you may be able to make a payment arrangement and have the suspension lifted.

If you ever have a question regarding the status of your driving privileges, you can go to the Secretary of State and obtain a copy of your driving record for \$7.00.

If this has gotten a bit confusing, don't worry – you're not alone. Give me a call at 313-610-6047.