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Website: www.direct.gov.uk/driverhealth

Find out about **DVLA's online services**

Go to: www.direct.gov.uk/onlinemotoringervices



How to apply for your driving licence after being disqualified for drink driving

For more information go to www.direct.gov.uk/driverhealth





I have been disqualified for drink-driving. How do I get my licence back?

What you need to do will depend on whether or not you have fallen into the High Risk Offenders (HRO) category of convicted drink-drivers.

How do I know if I fall into the HRO category?

You will fall into the HRO category if any of the following apply.

- You have been disqualified for driving, or being in charge of a vehicle, when the level of alcohol in your body was equal to or more than:
 - 87.5 microgrammes per 100 millilitres of breath;
 - 200 milligrammes per 100 millilitres of blood; or
 - 267.5 milligrammes per 100 millilitres of urine.
- You have been disqualified twice within the space of 10 years for driving over the legal limit or for being unfit to drive because of drink.
- You have been disqualified for refusing or failing to provide a breath, blood or urine sample for testing.

Courts do not automatically tell you that you are in the HRO category as a result of a drink-driving conviction.

I am not in the HRO category, how do I get my licence back?

We will send you an application to renew your driving licence 56 days before your disqualification ends. (You must let us know about any change of address while you are disqualified.)

If you do not receive this you should fill in an 'Application for a driving licence' (D1) which you can order from www.direct.gov.uk/motoringforms or get from post offices.

Note: If you are disqualified again for drink-driving within the next 10 years, you will then fall into the HRO category.

I am in the HRO category, how do I get my licence back?

You cannot get your licence back until our doctors think that you are medically fit to drive again. This means that you will have to have a medical assessment, including having blood tests.

We will send you the necessary application form 90 days before your disqualification ends. You must let us know about any change of address while you are disqualified. The 90 days normally allows enough time for the medical assessment to be completed before your disqualification ends.

If you do not receive the application form you should fill in an 'Application for a Driving Licence' (D1) which you can order from www.direct.gov.uk/motoringforms or get from post offices.

You will have to have a medical assessment which you must pay for.

If you receive your driving licence back before your disqualification ends you will not be able to drive until the start date shown on your driving licence.

What does the medical assessment involve?

The assessment will involve:

- filling in a medical questionnaire about your medical history and how much alcohol you drink;
- a physical examination;
- a urine test; and
- blood tests.

You will normally need to remove some clothing for the physical examination.

You will not be able to get your driving licence back if the medical assessment finds evidence of:

- persistent alcohol misuse within the past six months or dependency within the past 12 months; or
- current misuse or dependency.

This is to make sure that you will not be a risk to others on the road.

If you have any doubts about your fitness to drive, particularly in connection with any alcohol-related, mental-health, drug or other medical problem, discuss the matter with your own doctor before you apply for your licence.

It may be sensible to put off applying for your licence until you can meet the medical standards.



I have been on a drink-drive rehabilitation course. Do I still need to have a medical assessment?

If you are in the HRO category you will still need to have a medical assessment. This is a legal requirement for all drivers who have been disqualified for drink-driving.

Going on a drink-drive rehabilitation course simply reduces the disqualification period and allows you to apply for a licence earlier.

If you have had your qualification period reduced, you may not receive notice to apply for your licence from us. In this case you will need to fill in a D1.

What should I do if I move while I am still disqualified?

You should tell us your new address to make sure that you receive your application forms for your driving licence before your disqualification ends.

Our address is DVLA Swansea SA99 1TU. You can phone us or write to us with your new details.

How much will it cost to apply for my driving licence?

You will have to pay the doctor for the medical assessment. Doctors registered for VAT will also charge VAT on top of the assessment fee.

You will also have to pay us a fee for your driving licence.

Up-to-date driving licence fees are given on our website at www.direct.gov.uk/driving.