



Booklet 6

What You Should Know about Drivers' Licenses and Drug Convictions

How does the change in the law in 2016 help people get drivers' licenses back?

The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) no longer suspends driver's licenses after convictions for trafficking marijuana and most other drug convictions.

Important. If you were convicted of "trafficking" more serious drugs, the RMV will suspend your license. For example, trafficking cocaine.

If you lost your license because of a drug conviction before the law changed in 2016,

- You can get your license back;
- You do not have to wait; and
- You do not have to pay the \$500 reinstatement fee.

Important. The change in the law does **NOT** apply to driving under the influence (DUI) convictions or other alcohol offenses.

How Do I Get My License Back?

Go to a branch of the RMV.

If your license has been suspended for more than 2 years, you will have to pay for a permit

and pass a road test. The permit costs \$30 and the road test fee is \$35.

Will my drug conviction(s) show up on my driving record?

As of October 2016, the RMV must remove information about your drug convictions from your public driving record. The RMV also must remove expired warrants from your driving record.

Will my drug conviction(s) show up on a criminal background check?

A CORI report or criminal background check is not the same as a driving record. Your conviction stays on your CORI report or criminal background check until it is sealed.

Even after you get the case sealed, police and law enforcement can find out that you have the conviction.

The CORI reports that most employers get do not show sealed criminal cases.

For more information, see our other booklets on sealing criminal records www.gbls.org/our-work/cori-and-re-entry-project