

# Was your Virginia driver's license suspended because you did not pay court costs or fines?

For many years, Virginia had a law that suspended people's driver's licenses if they did not pay criminal or traffic costs or fines. Under the law, it did not matter if people did not have the money to pay. Their licenses were still taken away.



As of July 1, 2020, this law no longer exists. A court said the law was likely unconstitutional and said it could not be used against the drivers involved in that case. More recently, Virginia's legislature got rid of the law. Reinstatement fees that were put on driver's licenses due to court debt suspensions are now waived.

For more information about the court debt driver's license suspension law that Virginia had, please check our website at [www.justice4all.org/drive](http://www.justice4all.org/drive), or contact our court debt DL suspension hotline at (434) 422-5085.

## How do I figure out if my driver's license is suspended?

### What do I need to do to get my license back?

The DMV can give you a report called a "Compliance Summary" for free. The Compliance Summary will list all of the reasons why your driver's license is suspended (or will tell you that it is not suspended).

It will also tell you what you need to do to get your license back. **For many people, all that stands between them and a license is administrative stuff, like paying for a new license card or taking a vision test. There are over 200,000 Virginians who will get their license back just by completing these kinds of administrative requirements.**

You can get your Compliance Summary by doing any of the following:

- Going to any DMV office and picking it up in person. (Due to COVID-19, you may need to schedule an appointment to talk in-person with a DMV representative at an office.)
- Calling DMV at (804) 497-7100 to get one mailed to you. The DMV call center is open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday, and Saturday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
- Setting up an account on the DMV website ([www.dmv.virginia.gov](http://www.dmv.virginia.gov)) and downloading it.

## What should I do if I don't understand things?

You should contact the DMV. They have prepared to help people who had court debt suspensions get their license back. There may be additional requirements that you need to do.

You can go to any DMV office (although you may need to schedule an appointment), call DMV at (804) 497-7100, or send DMV an email from their website, at [https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/drivers/#fines\\_costs.asp](https://www.dmv.virginia.gov/drivers/#fines_costs.asp). The same webpage has more information on this issue.

If you have questions about the above information, or your situation, please call our court debt DL suspension hotline at (434) 422-5085 and leave a message. Generally speaking, we usually are not able to take individual cases for representation. However, we will try to provide legal information and/or answer your questions, if possible.