



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
LANSING

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 14, 2018

TO: Circuit, District, Family and Municipal Court Judges and Staff

FROM: Court Liaisons; Kari Ferri, Lee Ann Gaspar, and David Handsor  
Michigan Department of State

SUBJECT: 2018 Public Acts 43, 44, 45, 46, 48 and 50  
(HB 5040, 5041, 5043, 5046, 5079)

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Effective immediately, the Michigan Department of State will implement Public Acts 43, 44, 45, 46, 48 and 50 of 2018, amending 257.732a, 257.732b, and 257.304 of the Motor Vehicle Code; also added 257.732d of the Motor Vehicle Code. The Driver Responsibility Fee (DRF) program changes are as follows:

- Beginning Oct. 1, 2018, Michigan's Driver Responsibility Fee Law will no longer be in effect, meaning no new DRF assessments and outstanding DRF fees will not be collected.
- Beginning March 30, 2018 the Department of Treasury will implement a workforce training program and offer it as an alternative to payment of certain assessed DRF.
- Any outstanding DRF shall not be collected from individuals who have entered into a payment plan and were in good standing on or before February 1, 2018. Those individuals will have no liability for outstanding fees or the standard reinstatement fee.
- Payment of a reinstatement fee is waived through December 31, 2018.
- Effective September 30, 2018, any outstanding DRF will not be collected. An individual whose driving privileges were suspended for non-payment of DRF will be eligible to reinstate their driver license if there is no other licensing sanction.
- Beginning January 1, 2019 individuals with a DRF suspension must pay the reinstatement fee.
- DRF fees will be waived for an individual who successfully participated in a DWI or sobriety court program that ends on or after October 1, 2018.

If you have any questions, please contact Court Liaisons Kari Ferri (517) 636-0962, Lee Ann Gaspar (810)762-0764 or David Handsor (517) 636-0129.

# **ELIMINATING Driver Responsibility Fees**

**The Driver Responsibility Law took effect October 1, 2003. There have been several amendments to this law. The most recent amendments ELIMINATE the Driver Responsibility Fee Law on October 1, 2018.**

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Effective March 31, 2018, individuals who entered into a payment plan on or before February 1, 2018 will have their outstanding Driver Responsibility Fees eliminated. If there are no additional license actions pending, you may be eligible to reinstate your driver's license without paying a reinstatement fee\* beginning March 31.

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Individuals who did not enter into a payment plan on or before February 1, 2018 are still responsible for making payments until October 1, 2018. All Driver Responsibility Fees and reinstatement fees\* associated with Driver Responsibility Fees will be waived at this time.

**PAYMENT  
OPTIONS**

Please contact the Michigan Department of Treasury, 1-800-950-6227, for payment plan options. Once entered into a payment plan, individuals that have no additional license actions pending may be eligible to reinstate their driver's license without paying a reinstatement fee\*, March 31 through December 31, 2018. Some unemployed individuals may qualify for participation in a Workforce Development Program in lieu of payment. Please check the website below for details.



Eligible drivers can contact the Michigan Secretary of State's Office for additional information regarding reinstating driving privileges at 1-888-767-6424.

**\* Reinstatement fees will be waived through December 31, 2018. Beginning January 1, 2019, they will be required. If your license is currently suspended for other violations, such as failure to appear in court or driving on a suspended license, among others, you must clear these before reinstating.**

**Driver Responsibility Fees  
[michigan.gov/driverresponsibility](http://michigan.gov/driverresponsibility)**

# Frequently Asked Questions Regarding ELIMINATING the Driver Responsibility Fee (DRF)

**Has the Driver Responsibility Fee law really been eliminated?**

Yes, as of October 1, 2018 the Michigan Driver Responsibility Fee Law will no longer be in effect and the Michigan Department of Treasury will cease collection activity.

**If I am unemployed and unable to make my DRF payments, how can I reinstate my driver’s license?**

Beginning March 31, 2018, a Work Force Development program will be available for qualified individuals. If you complete one of the qualifying programs, your Driver Responsibility Fees will be waived. A list of qualifying Work Force Development programs and participating agencies will be available by March 31. Please continue to check [www.Michigan.gov/driverresponsibility](http://www.Michigan.gov/driverresponsibility) for updates.

**How do I apply for the Work Force Development program?**

Beginning March 31, 2018, information about qualifying Work Force Development programs and participating agencies will be available at [www.Michigan.gov/driverresponsibility](http://www.Michigan.gov/driverresponsibility).

**Will I receive a refund for Driver Responsibility Fees I have paid?**

No refunds will be issued. Neither the current nor the new Driver Responsibility Fee laws provide legal authority to issue refunds under any circumstances.

For Individuals on a Payment Plan/Installment Agreement on or before February 1, 2018	For Individuals NOT on a Payment Plan/Installment Agreement on or before February 1, 2018
<p><b>What is the effective date?</b> The law was signed on March 1, 2018 with a provision to cease collection, eliminate qualified fees, and prohibit assessment of Driver Responsibility Reinstatement Fees, effective March 31, 2018, for individuals on a payment plan.</p> <p>If you are eligible to have your license reinstated, Driver Responsibility reinstatement fees will not be assessed March 31, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Beginning January 1, 2019 the reinstatement fee will apply.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> New fees can still be assessed for qualifying convictions until the law ends on October 1, 2018.</p>	<p><b>What is the effective date?</b> The law was signed on March 1, 2018 with a provision to cease collection, eliminate qualified fees, and prohibit assessment of Driver Responsibility Fees, effective October 1, 2018.</p> <p>If you are eligible to have your license reinstated, Driver Responsibility reinstatement fees will not be assessed March 31, 2018 through December 31, 2018. Beginning January 1, 2019 the reinstatement fee will apply.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> New fees can still be assessed for qualifying convictions until the law ends on October 1, 2018.</p>
<p><b>When will my Driver Responsibility fee(s) be waived?</b> If your payment plan/installment agreement began on or before February 1, 2018 your Driver Responsibility Fee will be waived on March 31, 2018.</p>	<p><b>When will my Driver Responsibility fee(s) be waived?</b> You are still responsible for payment through September 30, 2018. Your fee(s) will be eliminated on October 1, 2018.</p>

<p><b>When can I get my license reinstated?</b>          If your payment plan/installment agreement began on or before February 1, 2018, and if you have not already reinstated your license you may do so between March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2018 without a reinstatement fee. Beginning January 1, 2019 a reinstatement fee will be required.</p> <p><b>Please note:</b> If your license is suspended for other violations, such as a failure to appear in court or driving on a suspended license, among others, you must clear these before reinstating.</p>	<p><b>When can I get my license reinstated?</b>          Individuals whose license is suspended as a result of a Driver Responsibility Fee can set up an installment agreement now and get their license back. Reinstatement fees will not be charged between March 31, 2018 and December 31, 2018. The installment agreement will be in effect until October 1, 2018. At that time the balance will be waived.</p> <p><b>Please note:</b> If your license is suspended for other violations, such as a failure to appear in court or driving on a suspended license, among others, you must clear these before reinstating.</p>
<p><b>Is there anything I have to do to have my Driver Responsibility fee waived?</b>          No. The Michigan Department of Treasury and Michigan Secretary of State's Office will work together to eliminate your Driver Responsibility Fee and cease all collection activity.</p>	<p><b>Is there anything I have to do to have my Driver Responsibility fee waived?</b>          No. The Michigan Department of Treasury and Michigan Secretary of State's Office will work together to eliminate your Driver Responsibility Fee and cease all collection activity.</p>
<p><b>Can I be issued any additional Driver Responsibility Fees?</b>          The law prohibits the assessment of Driver Responsibility Fees beginning October 1, 2018. Until that time new fees can still be assessed for qualifying convictions.</p>	<p><b>Can I be issued any additional Driver Responsibility Fees?</b>          The law prohibits the assessment of Driver Responsibility Fees beginning October 1, 2018. Until that time new fees can still be assessed for qualifying convictions.</p>
<p><b>Will I be assessed a second-year fee?</b>          No. These fees were eliminated effective October 1, 2016.</p>	<p><b>Will I be assessed a second-year fee?</b>          No. These fees were eliminated effective October 1, 2016.</p>
<p><b>I was on a payment plan on or before February 1, 2018. Should I stop paying?</b>          The balance of your payments will be waived and you will owe nothing more after March 31, 2018. No additional payments are necessary.</p> <p><b>I have already paid my reinstatement fee. Is there anything I need to do?</b>          No, your Driver Responsibility Fee will be eliminated.</p> <p><b>My payment plan included the reinstatement fee. Is there anything I need to do?</b>          No, effective March 31, 2018 your Driver Responsibility Fee will be eliminated and your reinstatement fee will be waived.</p> <p>If there are no other pending license actions you will be eligible to apply for license reinstatement.</p>	<p><b>I was not on a payment plan on or before February 1, 2018. Am I responsible for paying? Why should I pay?</b>          You are still responsible for making payments until October 1, 2018. Please contact the Michigan Department of Treasury, 800-950-6227, for payment plan options.</p> <p>If you enter into a payment plan and remain current on your payments you may be eligible to have your driver's license reinstated and the reinstatement fee will be waived between March 31, and December 31, 2018.</p> <p>Failure to make payments may result in further actions against your driver's license.</p> <p><b>Please note:</b> If your license is suspended for other violations, such as a failure to appear in court or driving on a suspended license, among others, you must clear these before reinstating.</p>

For additional questions regarding your **Driver Responsibility Fee(s)**, please contact the **Michigan Department of Treasury** at **800-950-6227**.

For additional questions regarding your **driving record and reinstating your driver's license**, please contact the **Michigan Secretary of State's Office** at **888-767-6424**.