

Violations With Driver's License Suspension Penalties

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Issue

Provide a list of driving and non-driving violations for which a person's driver's license may be suspended. For each violation, provide the length of suspension and indicate whether suspension is authorized or required.

This report updates OLR Report [2007-R-0636](#).

Summary

Connecticut law allows or requires driver's license suspension for many specified driving and non-driving violations, ranging from relatively minor offenses, like failure to provide proof of insurance or paying with a rejected credit card, to major offenses like driving under the influence or motor vehicle-related crimes. Additionally, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner has broad statutory authority under which he may suspend a driver's license "for any cause that he deems sufficient, with or without a hearing" ([CGS § 14-111\(a\)](#)).

Table 1 below lists the various reasons a person's driver's license may be suspended in Connecticut, separated into "driving" and "non-driving" categories. Table 2 summarizes the suspension violations we identified. It lists each statute that, if violated, may result in suspension and indicates (1) whether suspension is authorized or required, (2) the suspension length, and (3) whether it is a driving or non-driving violation. In cases where the violation and the suspension requirement are in different statutes, we indicate both.

In determining whether a violation is driving or non-driving, we generally follow the categorization used by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in its 2009 report, “[Reasons for Driver License Suspension, Recidivism, and Crash Involvement Among Drivers With Suspended/Revoked Licenses](#).” As the report notes, the reasons for suspension are diverse, complex, and sometimes interrelated, which in some cases makes them difficult to categorize. We categorized (1) violations committed while driving as driving violations (e.g., driving under the influence or reckless driving); (2) violations unrelated to driving (e.g., failure to make child support payments) as non-driving violations; and (3) suspensions that are for compliance reasons indirectly related to driving behavior or motor vehicle use (e.g., failure to pay fines or maintain insurance) as non-driving violations.

Table 1: Reasons for Driver’s License Suspension, Driving vs. Non-Driving

Driving Violations*	Non-Driving Violations
Assault or manslaughter (2nd degree) with a motor vehicle	Alcohol and cannabis offenses by people under age 21 (e.g., illegal possession or misrepresenting age to buy alcohol)
Driving under the influence (DUI) (including administrative per se violations)	Child support payment violations
Driving with a suspended or revoked license	Failure to appear for court appearance or to pay required fines, fees, or other charges for motor vehicle-related violations
Driving without a license	Failure to attend and complete required courses (e.g., driver retraining program or car seat safety class)
Evading responsibility after an accident resulting in death, injury, or property damage (hit and run)	Failure to comply with motor vehicle citations (including those from other jurisdictions)
Fleeing or evading police roadblock	Insurance violations (e.g., failure to maintain required coverage or provide proof of coverage when required)
History of unsafe operation (repeated moving motor vehicle violations or accumulation of points)	Loan or sale of any license, registration, or license plates or improper use of license or registration
Ignition interlock device violations (e.g., avoiding the use of one, failure to install, or circumventing or tampering with one)	Misrepresentation or false statement (e.g., on driver’s license applications and other motor-vehicle related matters requiring attestations or oaths)
Reckless driving	Paying DMV fees with an uncollectible check or a rejected credit or debit card
Specified moving violations committed by 16- and 17-year old drivers (e.g., texting or using a cell phone while driving and certain speeding violations)	Possession of a counterfeit or altered license containing one’s own photo
Speeding violations (typically, accumulated or severe violations)	

Table 1 (continued)

Driving Violations*	Non-Driving Violations
Street racing, motor vehicle contests and speed or skill demonstrations, and street takeovers (certain specified violations)	
Using a motor vehicle without the owner's permission or interfering or tampering with it	
Violating driving restrictions applicable to young drivers (e.g., passenger restrictions and curfews)	

*Generally includes violations committed in other jurisdictions

Table 2: Violations Resulting in License Suspension

CGS §	Violation	Required or Authorized	Length of Suspension*	Driving or Non-Driving
14-12g	Failure to provide proof of insurance, cancel a registration, or transfer vehicle ownership within 30 days after one's registration is suspended due to a failure to maintain insurance	Authorized	Indefinite	Non-driving
14-36(a) (14-111(b)(4))	Driving without a license, second or subsequent violation	Required	90 days	Driving
14-36g	Violation of passenger restrictions, driving curfew hours, or other restrictions applicable to 16- and 17-year old drivers	Required	First violation: 30 days Second violation: Six months or until eighteenth birthday, whichever is longer	Driving
14-36i	Violations of (1) driving restrictions applicable to 16- and 17-year old drivers (CGS § 14-36g) and (2) specified moving violations (e.g., speeding and reckless driving) by drivers subject to 14-36g	Required	Summary (immediate) 48-hour license suspension	Driving
14-36k	Driving without a license while under age 18	Required	One year	Driving
14-44c 14-44f	Falsifying information on commercial driver's license application or providing false information to obtain the license	Required	60 days (and until the correct information is submitted)	Non-driving
14-50(f)	Paying driver's license or related fees with an uncollectible check or a rejected credit or debit card (see DMV website)	Authorized	Indefinite	Non-driving
14-100a(d)	Failure to complete mandatory car seat safety class following child restraint system violation (first or second violation)	Authorized	Up to two months	Non-driving
14-110 (14-111(b))	Misrepresenting or making a false statement regarding motor vehicle related matters requiring oaths or affirmations (e.g., driver's license applications)	Required	First violation: at least one year Second violation: at least two years	Non-driving

Table 2 (continued)

CGS §	Violation	Required or Authorized	Length of Suspension*	Driving or Non-Driving
14-111(a)	History of unsafe operation (repeated violations), as delineated in Conn. Agencies Regs. § 14-137-82	Required	30 days	Driving
14-111(h)	Prosecution for perjury or false statement under CGS § 14-110 and case is nolleed or a suspended sentence or judgment is entered, and the false statement refers to the name, age, former suspension of, or former conviction of the applicant	Required	At least 30 days plus the period the applicant was in possession of the void license	Non-driving
14-111m	Failure to comply with certain motor vehicle violations issued by other jurisdictions	Required	Indefinite (until commissioner is notified that the person has complied with the citation)	Non-driving
14-111n	Convictions in other states comparable to certain moving violations that carry suspension penalties (e.g., reckless driving or impaired driving)	Required	Length specified for comparable conviction	Driving
14-219 (14-111(b) ; 14-111b)	Speeding violations (suspension is not authorized until fourth violation, except when a court recommends suspension or for certain speeding violations by drivers under age 18)	Required	Fourth violation: Up to 30 days Fifth violation: 60 days Sixth and subsequent violations: six months <i>Under Age 18</i> First violation: 60 days Second violation: 90 days Subsequent violation: six months	Driving
14-111f	Possession of counterfeit or altered license containing one's own photo	Required	Two months	Non-driving
14-111g (a)	Failure to attend or successfully complete driver retraining program when required	Authorized	Until the driver completes the program	Non-driving
14-111g (c)	Additional moving violation convictions within 36 months after completing the driver retraining program	Required	First violation: 30 days Second violation: 60 days Third or subsequent violation: 90 days	Driving

Table 2 (continued)

CGS §	Violation	Required or Authorized	Length of Suspension*	Driving or Non-Driving
14-112	Failure to provide proof of liability coverage when required to by the commissioner	Authorized	Indefinite (until proof is provided)	Non-driving
14-137a	Accumulation of specified driver's license points**	Required	30 days for first accumulation of over 10 points (indefinite period when points accumulate again at this level within five-year period) (Conn. Agencies Regs. § 14-137a-8)	Driving
14-140	Failure to appear for court appearance or to pay required fines, fees, and other charges for motor vehicle-related violations or infractions	Authorized	Indefinite	Non-driving
14-147 (b), (d) or (e) & 14-111(b) , as amended by PA 23-40 , §§ 16 & 17 (effective 10/01/2023)	Loan or sale of any license, registration, or license plates	Required	First violation: At least 90 days Subsequent violations: at least five years	Non-driving
14-147 (c) & 14-111 (b) , as amended by PA 23-40 , §§ 16 & 17 (effective 10/01/2023)	Use of another person's registration or driver's license or a registration on a car other than the one for which it was issued	Required	First violation: at least 30 days Subsequent violation: at least one year	Non-driving
14-213b	Failure to maintain minimum liability insurance coverage	Required	First violation: One month Second and subsequent violations: Six months	Non-driving
14-215 (14-111(b))	Driving while license or registration is suspended, revoked, or canceled	Required	First violation: at least one year (six months if the person was adjudged a youthful offender for the violation) Second violation: at least two years (one year if the person was adjudged a youthful offender for the violation)	Driving

Table 2 (continued)

CGS §	Violation	Required or Authorized	Length of Suspension*	Driving or Non-Driving
14-222 (14-111(b))	Reckless driving	Required	First violation: at least 30 and up to 90 days (six months if under age 18 or adjudged a youthful offender for the violation) Subsequent violation: at least 90 days (one year if under age 18 or adjudged a youthful offender for the violation)	Driving
14-223(b) (14-111(b))	Fleeing or evading police or roadblock	Required	First violation: One year (six months if the person was adjudged a youthful offender for the violation) Second violation: 18 months (one year if the person was adjudged a youthful offender for the violation)	Driving
14-224(a) & (b)(1) (14-111(b))	Evading responsibility (hit and run) following involvement in accident that results in fatality or serious injury	Required	First violation: at least one year Subsequent violations: at least two years	Driving
14-224 (b)(1) & (3) (14-111(b))	Evading responsibility (hit and run) following involvement in accident resulting in non-serious physical injury or property damage	Required	First violation: at least 90 days (six months if adjudged a youthful offender for the violation) Subsequent violations: at least one year (one year if adjudged a youthful offender for the violation)	Driving
14-224(c) , as amended by PA 23-135 , § 39 & PA 23-203 , § 4 (effective 10/01/2023) (14-111(b))	Various violations related to motor vehicle racing, contests, speed or skill demonstrations, and street takeovers	Required	First violation: at least 30 and up to 90 days (six months if under age 18 or adjudged a youthful offender for the violation) Subsequent violation: at least 90 days (one year if under age 18 or adjudged a youthful offender for the violation)	Driving

Table 2 (continued)

CGS §	Violation	Required or Authorized	Length of Suspension*	Driving or Non-Driving
14-227a(g) 14-227g 14-111(i)	Driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol, drugs, or both or with a blood-alcohol content (BAC) above the legal limit (0.08% generally, 0.04% when in a commercial vehicle and 0.02% if under age 21)	Required	First and second violations: 45 days, plus a required period of ignition interlock device (IID) use and, for second violations, travel limitations Third and subsequent violations: permanent revocation (but offenders may apply for reversal after two years)	Driving
14-227b 14-227c	Failing a chemical test of BAC, refusing a chemical test or the nontestimonial portion of a drug influence evaluation, or an officer concluding after investigation that a person was driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol (i.e., administrative per se violations)	Required	45 days, followed by a period of IID use depending on your age and whether you submitted to a test	Driving
14-227k	Avoiding the use of, tampering with, circumventing, or failing to install a required IID	Required	One year	Driving
14-227m	DUI with a passenger under age 18	Required	Generally same as DUI law (CGS § 14-227a)	Driving
14-227n	DUI in a school bus, student transportation vehicle, or vehicle designed to carry children	Required	Same as second convictions under DUI law	Driving
14-296aa (14-111(b))	Use of a cell phone or mobile electronic device by someone under age 18 while driving	Required	First violation: 30 days Second violation: 90 days Subsequent violation: six months	Driving
21a-279a(b) & (c) (14-111e)	Illegal possession by a person under age 21 of cannabis or cannabis products	Required	60 days	Non-driving
30-88a (14-111e)	Misrepresentation of age or use of license belonging to another for the purpose of procuring alcohol while under age 21	Required	150 days	Non-driving
30-89(b)(1) (14-111e)	Illegal possession by a person under age 21 of alcohol on a public road	Required	60 days	Non-driving

Table 2 (continued)

CGS §	Violation	Required or Authorized	Length of Suspension*	Driving or Non-Driving
30-89(b)(2) (14-111e)	Possession of alcohol by a person under age 21 in any other location	Required	30 days	Non-driving
46b-220	Failure to make child support payments	Authorized	Indefinite	Non-driving
53a-56b	Manslaughter in the 2nd degree with a motor vehicle	Required	One year (plus a period of IID use)	Driving
53a-60d	Assault in the 2nd degree with a motor vehicle	Required	One year (plus a period of IID use)	Driving
53a-119b (14-111(b))	Using a motor vehicle or vessel without the owner's permission, interfering or tampering with a motor vehicle	Required	First violation: at least one year Subsequent violation: at least two years	Driving

*In some instances where a person does not hold a license or where their license is suspended, their operating privilege is suspended and the commissioner is prohibited from issuing or reinstating a license for this period of time. Additionally, in some cases, the commissioner may reinstate a person's license sooner after a hearing due to compelling mitigating circumstances.

**Although the law requires the commissioner to establish a driver's license points system, it also generally prohibits him from assessing license points whenever a violator chooses not to contest and mails the fine in to the Centralized Infractions Bureau

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