

National Driver Register

Frequently Asked Questions

August 2020

What are the National Driver Register and Problem Driver Pointer System?

The National Driver Register (NDR) is a division in the National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) under the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The NDR maintains the computerized database known as the Problem Driver Pointer System (PDPS) which contains information on individuals whose privilege to operate a motor vehicle has been revoked, suspended, canceled, or denied or who have been convicted of serious traffic-related offenses (for the purpose of this document, we use the term “revoked” generally to cover each type of license action). As a result of an NDR search based on information received, the PDPS will “point” the State of Inquiry to the State of Record, where an individual’s driver status and history information is maintained.

Who submits the information to the NDR?

The chief driver licensing official of a participating State (e.g., State DMVs) is required to submit information identifying drivers with revoked licenses to the NDR. All States currently participate in the NDR.

What information do the State DMVs submit to the NDR?

The records submitted to the NDR consist of the following identifying information: name, date of birth, sex, driver license number, and reporting State.

When is the information submitted to the NDR?

State DMVs are required to submit information within 31 days of receiving a report of a revoked driver.

How is this information used?

Any time a person applies for a driver’s license or the renewal of an existing license, State driver licensing officials check the name and date of birth of the applicant against PDPS information to determine whether another State has reported the applicant as a revoked driver. If the applicant is identified, the licensing State may take action to deny the license application until the issue with the reporting State has been resolved.

How can I find out if I am listed on the PDPS?

You are entitled, under the provisions of the NDR and Privacy Acts, to request a check to see if you have a record on the PDPS.

In order to request your information, you must send a notarized letter (or provide a declaration in accordance with Federal law) to the following address.

The National Driver Register
NSA-220
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Alternatively, you may initiate a request electronically at www.nhtsa.gov/content/ndr.

Instructions on how to submit requests can be found on the last page of this document. Please note that it is a violation of criminal law to receive and disclose PDPS information without proper authorization.

What does it mean if my name is on the PDPS?

If your name is on the PDPS, it means that a State has reported you as a driver with a revoked license.



If my name is on the PDPS, can I be licensed in another State?

If you are reported to the NDR, you may not be able to obtain a license or learner's permit until you have resolved the reasons for your identification with the reporting State.

Note: Sanctions are NOT limited to the State in which you currently hold a valid license. Drivers committing serious traffic violations while in other States may be reported as well.

Example: Jane is passing through State A and commits a reckless driving offense. She receives a ticket and a summons to appear in court. She decides to ignore the situation because she lives and is licensed in State B. In response to her failure to resolve the situation, State A could assign her a license number, suspend her privilege to drive, and submit identifying information for Jane to PDPS. When Jane's license is due for renewal, State B, her home State, is required to run a check of PDPS before issuing or renewing her license. State B will see that State A has identified Jane as a suspended driver and may decide to deny her renewal until she resolves the situation.

In response, Jane may need to pay all fines, court costs, and reinstatement fees that apply, and satisfy any other sanctions brought by State A for the offense. Once those issues are resolved and the license suspension has ended, State A will update the driver status on PDPS consistent with State rules.

What do I do if my name has been reported to the PDPS?

Please contact the State that reported your information to the PDPS. If a State has reported your name, it means it has taken action against your license. If you are uncertain of the reporting State, please contact your State's DMV. Your State DMV will be able to provide you with the name of the reporting State. The reporting State will be able to provide you with all the requirements for

reinstating your driver's license. When these requirements are met, the State will update the driver status on PDPS consistent with State rules.

You also may request information directly from the NDR pursuant to the Privacy Act and NDR Act requirements that apply. However, the NDR's primary purpose is to maintain a database for State use. **The NDR cannot make changes to State-submitted information unless it is shown that the information does not meet the participation requirements that apply.**

In general, States maintain responsibility for the issuance and renewal of all driver licenses, and reinstatement requirements must be resolved directly with the State that has taken action against your license.

How do I dispute a record found on PDPS?

If you think a PDPS record does not pertain to you or was placed there in error, please contact your State driver licensing agency for more information on how to resolve these matters.

I need my driver license history report for a prospective employer. Can I obtain this information from the NDR?

No. The PDPS does not contain driver history records; it only contains information that serves to identify drivers with revoked licenses. Your entire driver history record is maintained at the State level.

Can I receive PDPS information over the telephone?

No. The information maintained on the PDPS is protected from release by applicable Federal statutes. Although the NDR will respond to physical mail and email requests that meet the specified requirements, the agency will not release information over the phone.

What is the processing time for a request?

For requests that meet all requirements, the NDR strives to provide a response within 10 business days. If a delay may occur, the NDR will provide acknowledgment of the request within 10 days and a timeframe for when the information will be provided.

I received a letter from the NDR, but I don't understand the status. What does it mean?

Possible NDR status outputs from system:

No Match	The individual does not have record on the PDPS.
Licensed (LIC)	The individual holds a license in that State and the privilege to drive is valid. (Only drivers who previously had a suspension/revocation and have cleared their history are included here.)
Eligible (ELG)	The individual's privilege to drive or apply for a license in a State is valid. (Only drivers who previously had a suspension/revocation and have cleared their history are included here.)
Not Eligible (NOT)	The individual's privilege to drive or apply for a license in a State is invalid, meaning you are not eligible for a license in that State.

How long do records stay on the database?

Records stay on the PDPS according to State statutes of limitations requirements. There is no applicable Federal statute of limitations that limits how long a revoked driver can be reported. To determine the length of time your record will stay on file, you must contact the State of record.

How long does it take for a State to clear my record?

Time will vary depending on the State update process for its licensing system. This information can be obtained from the reporting State.

How can I directly contact the NDR?

NDR staff may be contacted Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET.

Toll-free: 888-851-0436

Washington, DC: 202-366-4800

To have a search performed on your name:

Requests must be made in writing, via notarized letter (or an unsworn declaration in accordance with Federal law), and mailed to the address on the following page; or electronically following the instructions listed on the following page.

Please note that NHTSA employees may be working remotely and delays may occur in responding to requests submitted via physical mail. During this time, requests may be submitted electronically.

Sending your Privacy Act request via physical mail:

1. Send a **notarized** request or unsworn declaration to:
 The National Driver Register
 NSA-220
 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
 Washington, DC 20590
 - State and driver license number*
 - Social Security number*
 - Sex*
 - Height*
 - Weight*
 - Eye color*
2. Indicate that you are seeking NDR records to be released.
3. Include in your request:
 - Your full legal name
 - Your full mailing address
 - Your date of birth
4. If the request is not notarized, you must include the following declaration: “I am the individual identified in this request and have authority under the NDR Act of 1982, as amended, to request and receive PDPS information. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.”
5. Sign and date your request.

Sending your Privacy Act request electronically:

1. Submit your email address to NDR using this web form to begin the request process:
www.nhtsa.gov/content/ndr
 - State and driver license number*
 - Social Security number*
 - Sex*
 - Height*
 - Eye color*
2. You will receive an email with a link to upload your request form.
3. In the request form, indicate that you are seeking NDR records to be released.
4. Include in your request:
 - Your full legal name
 - Your date of birth
 - Your phone number
 - Your email address
 - Your full mailing address
5. Include the following declaration: “I am the individual identified in this request and have authority under the NDR Act of 1982, as amended, to request and receive PDPS information. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.”
6. Sign and date your request. Electronic signatures may be used.

Requests that do not meet these requirements will not be processed.

*Optional information that helps eliminate misidentifications.

Note: An encrypted and password-protected email response will be sent back to the email address that you include in your request.