

MCSIA NATIONAL DRIVER REGISTER FACT SHEET

The Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act (MCSIA) is a federal mandate instituted to enhance highway safety by imposing stricter penalties on those drivers who operate commercial motor vehicles as well as additional requirements that affect the application process for all drivers, including non-commercial drivers. This mandate requires both commercial and non-commercial drivers to reconcile all outstanding driver sanctions (suspensions, revocations, cancellations or withdrawals) in all states prior to obtaining any driver's license product, including a learner's permit.

Consequently, this federal mandate requires states to check the National Driver Register (NDR) prior to issuing any driver's license product. As part of NDR, the Problem Driver Pointer System (PDPS) provides the names of states where an individual's driving privilege is sanctioned. Furthermore, this mandate prohibits the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) from issuing any driver's license product to an individual whose driving privilege has been sanctioned in another state. PennDOT must comply with this federal mandate.

In order to allow a driver who is renewing a commercial or non-commercial driver's license time to resolve a sanction(s) in another state(s), PennDOT will check NDR six months prior to the expiration of an individual's driver's license. If an individual's driving privilege is sanctioned in another state(s), PennDOT will send a notification letter to the individual providing the name and contact number for the state(s) where the sanction(s) exists. PennDOT will also check NDR three months prior to expiration of an individual's driver's license, and if a sanction still exists, a second notification letter will be sent to the individual. The six and three month notification letters allow an individual time to take the necessary steps to clear his/her driving record prior to applying to renew his/her Pennsylvania driver's license.

Additionally, individuals whose driving privilege is sanctioned in another state(s) will not be able to obtain a replacement (duplicate) Pennsylvania driver's license or apply for a learner's permit until the individual has reconciled the sanction(s) with the other state(s).

In all cases, it is critical that an individual contacts the state(s) in which he/she has an outstanding driver sanction(s) immediately to resolve the sanction(s) in order to ensure his/her Pennsylvania driving privilege is not affected.