

Demerit Point Suspensions

learn more about Wisconsin's demerit point system

Most traffic tickets come with “demerit points”. If you receive a certain number of points within a year, your license can be suspended, though the number of points and the length of the suspension will depend on several factors.

Address Your Points to Resolve Your Suspension

Steps to get my license back

Most traffic tickets come with “demerit points”. If you receive a certain number of points within a year, your license can be suspended.

You can get your license back either by 1) reducing the number of points below 12 points or by 2) waiting until the suspension period ends.

1) If you reduce your points under the limit, and no more points are issued during the suspension, your suspension may be lifted and you can return to the Legal Tune Up tool for help getting your license reinstated. This generally requires a \$60 fee.

You may reduce your point total by three points for attending an approved traffic safety course. You may be able to reduce or eliminate your suspension, but you only can take the course one time in a three-year period.

You also may be able to reopen your court case and ask the judge to reduce your points. When you ask the judge to reopen a case, you are asking the judge to get rid of the finding of guilt and let you start over with your case. You can reopen enough cases to remove the suspension altogether, or, if that is impractical, you can simply reopen enough cases to reduce the length of the suspension. To do this, you may want to see a lawyer because the steps can be complicated. You will need to file a motion with the court in the jurisdiction where you received the suspension.

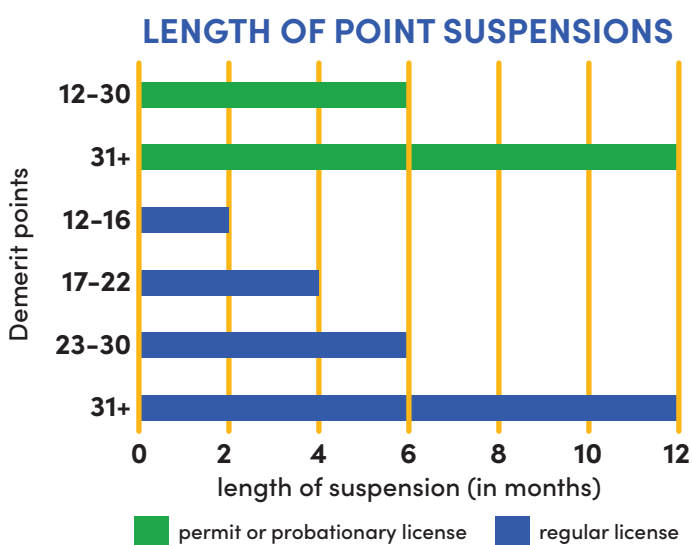
2) Some people wait out their suspensions. Sometimes, people have suspensions that have already expired but their license is still suspended because they didn't pay the reinstatement fee. Check out your driver's license reinstatement eligibility the Legal Tune Up Tool!

Still have questions?

You may benefit from talking to an attorney. We host monthly clinics in Jefferson and Racine County, but no matter which county you live in, we can help connect you to the resources you need.

How long will my suspension last?

The ticket, or ‘violation’ date (not the conviction date) is the important date when trying to figure out how many points you've gotten in a year. Conviction date only matters for determining when a suspension begins and ends. So, delaying your court date won't change the points/year calculation.



What if I have a probationary driver license, instruction permit, or have never been issued a license?

Generally, you are considered to be unlicensed under these circumstances and you will get twice as many points for any tickets you get.

Can I apply for a temporary (occupational) license?

While your license is suspended or revoked, you may be eligible for an ‘occupational’ driver license. These temporary licenses allow you to legally drive with restrictions to and from necessary places like a job with restrictions while your license remains suspended/revoked. It does not solve all licensing, and is expensive, but it can help you keep driving in your daily life. Check your eligibility for an occupational driver license on the Wisconsin DMV website.