

Problem Driver Pointer System (PDPS) FAQ

What is the Problem Driver Pointer System?

As part of the National Driver Registry (NDR), the Problem Driver Pointer System (PDPS) maintains a record of all individuals whose driving privilege is sanctioned in another state(s). The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) uses PDPS to determine if drivers, who are looking to obtain or renew a New Jersey driver's license, have any outstanding driver sanctions in other states.

What is a sanction?

A sanction is the suspension, revocation, cancellation, withdrawal of driving privileges, or a history of serious driving violations in another state.

Who is affected?

Any driver (commercial or non-commercial) who has an outstanding driver sanction or a history of serious driving violation in another state.

How will I know if I'm affected?

If a sanction(s) is found, the NJMVC will mail a notification to you (at time of renewal) providing the following information: name of the state(s) where there is a sanction(s) on your driving record and the driver's license number relevant to the sanction so that you can follow up with that state(s) to get the sanction(s) resolved.

If I had driving privileges suspended in another state 20 years ago, will that show up when my driving record is checked?

There is no time limit. Any sanction in another state needs to be resolved before any state can issue or renew a driver's license (DL), commercial driver's license (CDL) or commercial learner's permit (CLP).

NJMVC mailed me a PDPS letter, but also mailed me a renewal application. Does this mean I am able to renew?

You must first resolve your issue with the other state. NJMVC has mailed the renewal application in anticipation of you taking the necessary steps to clear your driving privilege. If you submit your application while your driving privilege is still sanctioned, NJMVC will be unable to process your renewal. We will not renew your driver's license until PDPS shows you are clear in all states.

What do I need to do if my driver's license is sanctioned in another state?

You will need to contact the state in question and resolve the issues as mandated by the state(s). You will need to obtain a [no match letter](#) or clearance letter from the state in question before you can proceed, in person, to a New Jersey licensing agency to renew your New Jersey DL, CDL or CLP.

How long will it take to clear a sanction?

How long it takes to resolve a sanction in another state depends on the type of sanction and the other state's procedures and requirements.

How much will this cost?

There is no additional fee in New Jersey for the PDPS check when applying for an original or renewing your DL, CDL or CLP. However, if another state requires fees to restore your driving privilege, you will need to comply with that state's requirements.

If I am not allowed to renew my New Jersey license, can I apply for a New Jersey ID card?

Yes. ID cards are not affected by PDPS checks. If you allow the license to expire for over three years, you will have to reapply as a new driver and retest to regain a New Jersey driver's license.

My New Jersey license is not expired, but I do have a sanction in another state; am I still able to drive in New Jersey?

If your New Jersey driving privileges are valid, you can drive. The presence of a PDPS issue does not mean that you are automatically suspended in New Jersey; however, you cannot

apply for an original, or renew your New Jersey DL, CDL or CLP until the matter is resolved. In addition, you may not drive in any state(s) where your privileges are withdrawn. The NJMVC strongly recommends that you resolve the issue in the other state(s) as soon as possible.

What if I can never get the sanction cleared in the other state?

New Jersey is prohibited by federal regulations from issuing or renewing a DL, CDL or CLP while your driving privileges are sanctioned in another state.

Is there a way for me to check to see if I have any sanctions in another state?

PDPS checks the National Driver Registry (NDR). You are entitled, under the provisions of the Privacy Act, to request a file search to see if you have a record on the NDR database. You must send a notarized letter, referred to as a “privacy act request” to:

National Driver Registry
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Be sure to indicate that you would like an NDR file check. Include in your request, your full legal name, date of birth, state and driver’s license number, sex, height, weight, and eye color (your social security number is optional). There is no charge for this service. For more information, contact [National Driver Register \(NDR\) | NHTSA](#).

How do I dispute a record found on PDPS?

If you suspect fraud, please contact NDR for procedures to dispute the action. The NDR staff may be contacted: Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays, from 7:00am to 4:00pm EST Toll-free (888) 851-0436 or (202) 366-4800.