

Suspended Driver's License Program

Pacific Educational Services, Inc.

I. OBJECTIVE

District Attorney Vern Pierson believes that education can be the first step in halting behavior that is or could be detrimental to an individual or the public at large. With this in mind, the District Attorney's Office has formed a working partnership with Pacific Educational Services (PES) in order to target Vehicle Code Sections 12500(a) and 14601.1 violators who disregard the law and continue to drive even though their driving privileges have been suspended or revoked. Many of these offenders are confused about the law and the role of the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV); and have thus taken a reactive stance to their program. They continue to drive without a driver's license and assume that because of their situation in life, they are powerless to take the necessary steps to obtain a valid driver's license. They believe they do not have the time, the money, the education, and/or the self-esteem to actually solve their problem and become a legal California driver. This seems to be a recurring theme with many if not all Vehicle Code Section 12500(a) and 14601.1 offenders. D.A. Vern Pierson and PES have created the Suspended Driver's License/Unlicensed Driver's License Program (SDLP). The Program will educate these violators about the law while at the same time providing a workable plan for the offender to not only meet his/her financial obligation with the DMV but actually have his/her driving privileges re-instated within a realistic time frame.

II. TARGET POPULATION or Who is Eligible for the Program

Individuals 18 years or older who have violated the 12500(a) and/or the 14601.1 Sections of the California Vehicle Code by driving while their Driver's license has been suspended or revoked by the Department of Motor Vehicles and whom the District Attorney's Office has determined is eligible for this program.

III. PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Intake

This program is a pre-filing District Attorney diversion program under Penal Code section 1001.1(b). The District Attorney has the exclusive authority to determine eligibility for the Program. If the Program is not accepted or once accepted not completed within the time limit established by the District Attorney, the defendant will not be eligible for diversion under this Program and the District Attorney may refer the violation(s) to the Court for prosecution.

Once a violation has been referred to the District Attorney for prosecution, the reviewing Deputy District Attorney will determine if the suspected violator is eligible and suitable for the Program. Before filing a criminal complaint or certifying the citation to the court, the District Attorney will notify the violator of eligibility for the Program. If the violator accepts participation in the Program, the violator will have 90 days to complete the Program requirements.

Eligibility:

1. All defendants 18 years or older charged with 14601.1 or 12500(a) Vehicle Code.
2. No active DMV suspension authorities under 14601(a), 14601.2(a), 14601.3 and 14601.5 Vehicle Code.
3. Not currently on probation in any jurisdiction for any crimes.
4. Three or fewer 14601(a), 14601.1(a), 14601.2(a) and 14601.5 VC convictions within five years of the current violation.
5. The offense report, citation, or driving record exhibits/displays no evidence of reckless, dangerous, or intoxicated driving.

Successful completion of the program includes the following terms:

- Not committing any further law violations during the **ninety (90)** day period;
- Paying for and completing the six (6) hour class through PES;
- ***Paying all PES fees for the educational class - \$230 (fee includes a \$50 District Attorney's Office Administrative Fee).***

B. Registration

Once referred, the participant can accept the Program by:

1. The defendant must be enrolled and have paid for the PES program no later than the D.A. determined sign up deadline. (After the deadline date has passed, the D.A. will refer the violation to the Court and the Program will not be available).
2. All registration and payment of fees will be handled by PES. PES will promptly notify the DA of enrollment in the Program.

C. Class Duration and Fees

Class will be six (6) hours and held on a Saturday or Sunday. Cost of the class is **\$230.00** which must be paid in full before completion of the Program. (Fee includes a \$50 District Attorney's Office administrative fee). All registration and payment of fees will be handled by PES.

V. CLASS COMPLETION AND NOTIFICATION

- A. Upon completion of the six (6) hours the attendee will receive a Completion Certificate;
- B. PES will notify the D.A. of successful completion of the Program requirements.
- C. After successful completion of the class and payment of all fees, the District Attorney will reject the case for prosecution under “Prosecutors Pre-filing Diversion.”

This is a Pre-filing of charges diversion program. This means that if you do not accept this Program on or before the deadline date, this diversion opportunity will not be offered to you again. The case will be sent to the Court and will you have to appear on your scheduled court date. A conviction for the crime(s) may be punishable by a county jail sentence and/or significant fines and court costs.

If you complete the *SDLP*, the following will apply:

- You **will not** be required to appear in front of a Judge.
- The charge(s) **will not** be filed against you.
- You **will not** have a record of conviction (*a conviction may affect your DMV record and insurance costs*).
- You will not incur court costs and fines. (*Currently, court imposed fines range from \$387.00 to \$2,000.00*)

In order to participate in the *SDLP* you must contact PES, the Program provider, within 15 days of the “District Attorney Notification Letter” at 530-888-1010 or 800-346-5891 or register online at www.pesprograms.com to enroll in the program and pay the applicable fees.

PES Payments accepted: Credit/Debit Cards.
Money Order/Cashier’s check made payable to PES
Payment Plans are available with PES
(NO PERSONAL CHECKS ACCEPTED).