

# The Point System

## ESTABLISHED FOR TRAFFIC LAW VIOLATORS

To have safer highways, all drivers must obey our traffic laws and must drive carefully and courteously at all times.

South Carolina has a point system for traffic law violators aimed at protecting innocent persons from careless and reckless drivers.

In nearly every traffic accident, someone breaks a traffic law. Some people make breaking the law a habit. The purpose of the point system is to make these problem drivers improve their driving habits and attitudes. If they do not change, they risk losing their right to drive.

## HOW THE POINT SYSTEM WORKS

If you are found guilty of breaking a traffic law, you will be reported. The court must report your conviction to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Your driver's record at the Department lists any convictions and the number of points charged against you under the point system. Each violation is assigned a certain number of points by law.

**Points are also charged to your record for violations you commit in other states and for military court-martial traffic convictions.**

Under South Carolina law, forfeiture of bond for a traffic law offense counts the same as a conviction.

When six points or more have been posted to your record, the Department sends this letter urging you to drive more carefully and pointing out the seriousness of having your license suspended.

If you continue to violate traffic laws (or if you already have convictions that the Department has not received) and your point total reaches 12 or more your driver's license will be suspended.

## POINTS GIVEN FOR THESE VIOLATIONS:

VIOLATIONS	POINTS
Reckless Driving.....	6
Passing stopped school bus.....	6
Hit-and-Run, property damage only.....	6
Driving too fast for conditions, or speeding:	
(1) Not more than 10 m.p.h. above posted speed limits.....	2
(2) More than 10 m.p.h. but less than 25 m.p.h. above posted speed limits.....	4
(3) 25 m.p.h. or more above posted speed limits.....	6
Disobedience of any official traffic control device.....	4
Disobedience of officer directing traffic.....	4
Failing to yield right of way.....	4
Driving on wrong side of road.....	4
Passing unlawfully.....	4
Turning unlawfully.....	4
Driving through or within safety zone.....	4
Following too closely.....	4
Failing to give signal, or giving improper signal, for stopping, turning or suddenly decreased speed.....	4
Operating with improper brakes.....	4
Shifting lanes without safety precaution.....	2
Failing to dim lights.....	2
Operating with improper lights.....	2
Operating a vehicle in unsafe condition.....	2
Driving in improper lane.....	2
Improper dangerous parking.....	2
Improper backing.....	2

## DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

Any driver who has accumulated points may have the points reduced by four by completing the National Safety Council's Defensive Driving Course or its equivalent. Points may only be reduced one time in a three-year period.

**The eight hour course must be taken and completed in the state of South Carolina.** Defensive driving can only cancel a point suspension if it is completed before the suspension begins.

## FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Having your driving privileges suspended or revoked for any reason is a serious matter. It is more serious than most drivers realize. If your driving privileges are suspended under the point system, state law requires that you prove financial responsibility for three years following the end date of the suspension.

You can give proof of financial responsibility in one of the following ways:

- (1) Have your insurance agent file a Certificate of Insurance (SR-22), or
- (2) Deposit a \$40,000 per motor vehicle with S.C. State Treasurer's Office, or
- (3) Have a surety company issue a bond for you.

**CAUTION:**  
**You may**  
**lose**  
**your license!**