

Important Driving Licence Information – Feb 2011

DVLA has announced important changes to its procedures when dealing with drivers who have failed to surrender their licences to court or DVLA to have them endorsed with penalty points.

Drivers who receive penalties from the courts, or fixed penalty offences that do not result in disqualification, are required to surrender their current valid driving licence for the endorsement to be added. Many drivers fail to surrender their licence to the courts or DVLA and in these circumstances the law provides that DVLA can revoke the licence as a last resort. Until recently, DVLA's interpretation of the legislation has resulted in drivers being allowed a period of grace of 12 months to send licences in for endorsement before revocation.

However, the agency will no longer allow this period of grace. As a result, where a driver fails to surrender their driving licence for endorsement to the court, DVLA will write to the driver requesting the return of the licence to the agency. If the driver does not surrender the licence, it will be revoked. Drivers will be given 28 days to comply before the licence is revoked and the driver will not be entitled to drive.

Drivers need to be aware of this important change. It is also important that licence holders notify DVLA immediately of any change of address; failure to do so may mean that letters from DVLA are not received and the licence could be withdrawn without the drivers' knowledge.