



How Long Records Are Kept

DMV records are **not** kept indefinitely. Your driver abstract normally **does not** show the date you received your first NYS driver license unless the driver abstract is printed before your first driver license renewal. See the information on [the date you were first licensed](#).

Employers frequently ask for driver abstracts that show activity for the last 10 years or more. However, the DMV keeps records for a shorter amount of time.

Driver abstracts show the following information:

- license suspensions or revocations terminated during the current year or in the past three years,
- all license suspensions or revocations that are not terminated,
- moving traffic violation convictions that occurred during the current year and in the past three years,
- accidents that occurred during the current year and in the past three years, and
- alcohol or drug-related convictions that occurred in the past ten years.

Driver license and vehicle registration records are removed **five years** after the expiration date of the last driver license or registration.

How can I show the date I got my first NYS driver license?

DMV records are **not** kept indefinitely. Your driver abstract normally **does not** show the date you received your first NYS driver license unless the driver abstract is printed before your first renewal. Use [form MV-15](#) to request a letter from the DMV that shows the earliest driver license activity date shown on DMV records. Mark the box that indicates "Activity Letter" on page 4 of form MV-15. The fee is \$6.



How to Get DMV Records

You must provide the following information to get a DMV record:

- Proof of your [identity](#) (normally your photo driver license).
- [Form MV-15](#) for mail requests of all DMV abstracts, or form MV-15C for requests of driver abstracts that you make at a DMV office.
- Use [form MV-198C](#) to get copies of accident reports. If a record is not listed on form MV-198C or on form MV-15, use [form MV-15F](#).
- The information to identify the record, which is explained on the forms.
- To request **your** driver license, vehicle registration or title abstract by phone, see below. Make sure you have your driver license and credit card information.
- A fee of \$6 per search (or fees indicated on form MV-198C) in a personal check or money order made payable to "Commissioner of Motor Vehicles". (There is a fee of \$5 to process orders by telephone. The total fee for telephone orders is \$11.)

On Line

If your address has not changed, you can order a copy of your driver abstract [on-line](#). You need your driver license and a credit card to pay the fee. Your driver abstract arrives by mail in approximately one week.

By Phone:

You can get **your** driver, vehicle registration or title abstract from the DMV Upstate Call Center. You must provide information from your driver license for proof of identity. There is a fee of \$6 for the abstract, and processing fee of \$5. The total fee is \$11. You can use a credit card to pay the fees.

To reach the Upstate Call Center:

- from area codes 315, 518, 585, 607 or 716 call **1-800-225-5368**
- from other area codes call **(518) 473-5595**

When You Renew Your Driver license

When you receive your driver license renewal notice by mail, you have the option to order a copy of your driver abstract. Mark the blue-colored box on your renewal notice, and add the additional fee indicated on the notice to driver license renewal fee printed on the notice. Send one personal check for the total amount of the driver license fee and driver abstract fee. Your driver abstract is mailed in approximately 14 days and is mailed separately from your driver license document.

In Person:

You can request a driver abstract at your [Local DMV Office](#). You must show proof of identity (normally your photo driver license), complete form MV-15C, and pay the search fee of \$6. You must certify your permissible use defined in the DPPA in the certification section of form MV-15C.

You can also use form MV-15C to request a driver abstract at the **Customer Service Counter**, Room 136, Swan Street Building, Empire State Plaza, Albany. Show your proof of identification and pay the search fee of \$6.

You can request a vehicle registration abstract or title abstract at the Customer Service Counter. Use [form MV-15](#). You must certify your permissible use defined in the DPPA in the certification section of form MV-15. Show your proof of identification and pay the search fee of \$6. If your request does not include the DPPA certifications of [permissible use](#), you will get only a "masked abstract" at the Customer Service Counter of the Central Office. An explanation of a masked abstract appears below.

The DMV provides a **driver abstract** at a DMV Office or the Customer Service Counter at the time you request it. Any other DMV abstract requested at the Customer Service Counter will be available at the Customer Service Counter after 1:00PM on **the next business day** after the day of your request.

By Mail:

Use [form MV-15](#). Include the DPPA certification that you have a [permissible use](#) for the information under Federal law. Include a photocopy of your proof of identity and a personal check or money order for the search fee of \$6. Mail these items to the address on the form.

"Masked" Driver Abstracts:

You can request a driver abstract **that does not list personal information** (a masked abstract). A masked abstract contains information about the driver license class, status, endorsements and restrictions, convictions, accidents, suspensions and revocations. It does not contain personal information about the driver. A masked abstract is available by mail or in person from the DMV Albany Central Office only. If you request a driver abstract by mail or at the Customer Service Counter in Albany, and your request does not