

State of New York -- Department of Motor Vehicles
Division of Driver Safety

DMV Reexamination Program

For various reasons, the Department of Motor Vehicles' Reexamination Program intimidates many drivers.

Upon receiving a request from DMV to appear for a reexamination, drivers may initially feel outraged, "How dare they challenge the way I drive!"; insulted, "How can they question the way I drive?"; defensive, "Why me? I've been driving for years without receiving even a parking ticket let alone a traffic ticket."; accusatory, "If they're really concerned about highway safety, why don't they do something about those idiots who drive as if they got their licenses from the 5 & 10?"; or any combination thereof.

Some drivers are unable to repress these feelings, even after the initial shock of receiving the reexamination notice has worn off.

Let's try to alleviate some of these feelings by demystifying DMV's Reexamination Program.

By law, DMV may require drivers to submit to an examination to determine their qualifications to drive a vehicle when they have been involved in three reportable accidents that occurred within a period of 18 months (accidents which resulted in any injury, death or over \$1,000 in property damages), or when there are reasonable grounds to believe that they may not be qualified.

How does DMV decide when a reexamination is needed?

The most common reason is where drivers have been involved in three reportable accidents in a period of 18 months. Other reasons include requests submitted by the police or courts, and information contained in letters from concerned family members and citizens.

Police requests automatically trigger the reexamination process. Letters from concerned family members or citizens which DMV feels contain reasonable grounds to believe that drivers may not be qualified also trigger the reexamination process.

The letters must be signed. However, requests for anonymity are honored. They must also provide specific examples of why the writer believes the driver cannot safely operate a vehicle.

DMV carefully reviews all of these letters and makes every effort to keep its reexamination program from being used as a form of harassment in family or other disputes. Only letters that warrant further investigation are used in the reexamination program.

How does the reexamination program work?

DMV mails the drivers a reexamination notice that directs them to appear at the Testing and Investigation Section in one of its District Offices, or at one of the road test sites located throughout the state. A road test site is used when the drivers live a great distance from one of DMV's District Offices.

In some instances drivers may be required to provide a medical statement as part of the reexamination process. For example, if the letter from the concerned family member indicates that their ability to safely operate a vehicle may be caused by medication they are taking, a statement from their doctor detailing any medications and the impact of the medication on their ability to drive would be required.

The reexamination starts with drivers being interviewed by one of DMV's Motor Vehicle License Examiners. Based upon the information obtained during the interview regarding the incident(s) that triggered the reexamination, they may be required to take a vision, written and/or road test.

If drivers are not required to take a vision, written and/or road test, or passes all of the required test(s), the case is closed and no further action is taken. However, if warranted, a restriction such as corrective lenses, daylight driving only, no limited access highways, etc. will be added to their license.

If drivers do not appear for the reexamination, or refuses to submit to the reexamination, their license is suspended until they complete the reexamination process.

If drivers fail the written or road test, their license will be revoked for thirty days. To obtain a new license, they will be required to complete the whole licensing process including the five hour pre-licensing course and all tests.

What should drivers do if they receive a reexamination notice?

Most importantly, DON'T PANIC.

The purpose of reexamination program is to ensure that they are still qualified to safely operate a vehicle. It is meant to protect the drivers in question as well as the motoring public in general.

Drivers should appear at the reexamination site on the date and time as directed. If they have a problem with the site, date or time, they should immediately contact the office that sent the reexamination notice to make other arrangements.

Remember, even if the reexamination was initiated by a letter from a concerned family member or citizen, they had your best interest at heart when they wrote to DMV. They also provided specific examples of what appears to be driving deficiencies which DMV felt established reasonable grounds for reexamination.

In conclusion, DMV emphasizes that the reexamination program is not an enforcement program. Instead, it is meant to ensure that drivers retain their ability to safely operate a vehicle, not deal with drivers who ignore the traffic laws.

**Sample Letter of Concern Requesting a
Driver Re-examination by the New York State
Department of Motor Vehicles**

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Day and time I can most easily be reached:

Mail to:

New York State Department of Motor
Vehicles
Office of Driver Improvement
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12228

Rockland County Version 080103

Date:

Name of Driver:

Address of Driver:

The following observations have been made
about his/her driving (include specific incidents
and dates when possible):

Any other concerns about conditions (for
example, medical and behavioral) affecting
driving:

I would like my concern to remain anonymous:

No

Yes

Sincerely yours,

(Signature Required)