



Driver's License Eligibility & Restoration Program

Cumberland County District Attorney's Office (North Carolina)
Billy West, District Attorney

About the Program

The Cumberland County District Attorney's Office has led an effort to aid individuals with revoked driver's licenses to become eligible to have them restored. This effort has extended relief from court indebtedness to more than 7,000 people whose driver's licenses were suspended because of an inability to pay traffic fines and fees. Court indebtedness is one of the main reasons for driver's license revocations in North Carolina.

Data provided from the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts shows that when traffic court debt is not paid within several years it is likely never to be paid. Officials found that most of the cases where court indebtedness arose stemmed from minor traffic offenses, such as expired registration, were often tied to financial hardship. The goal of the effort in Cumberland County is to help people become eligible to get their driver's license back and that money not to be a barrier to that.

District Attorney Billy West says he knows access to a driver's license is vital to people hoping to gain or maintain employment. Hopefully, this effort gives someone the ability to go the Department of Motor Vehicles with a clean slate and get their driver's license. West said, **"My office is committed to helping those individuals who might have made mistakes in their past but have now shown a determination to remain law abiding citizens. We do not want economic barriers to continue to cause these individuals to suffer the collateral consequences, in this case license revocation, of their conviction when they have otherwise done their sentence. Justice demands that while my office prosecutes those individuals who commit crimes, even traffic offenses, that we also assist those individuals who have done their sentences. My office does this with some of our other projects such as our Expungement Clinic. In the case of minor unpaid traffic offenses where someone admitted they were guilty, financial hardship should not be an obstacle to them being able to get their driver's license and so that they can maintain employment, feed their family, and be a functioning member of our community."**



***Billy West**, District Attorney
Cumberland County (NC)*

CONTACT THE OFFICE: