Understanding the Role of the Court in CDL/CMV Cases

Hon. Gary A. Graber
Town Justice, Town of Darien



Learning Objectives

Courts play a significant role when handling CDL/CMV cases due to the fact their work product may be the final step in ensuring accurate conviction related information.

Upon completion of this presentation participants will have a better understanding of why it is important that those filing these cases must fully understand their roles in doing so.

Learning Objectives

Participant must also understand that the judicial perspective today comes from many years of recognizing where things go wrong.

- Why should judges be aware masking;
- The importance of the "complete" citation;
- Application of the terms "Conviction" and "Disqualifying Offenses" and applying them to CDL/CMV cases.

Requested skills to acquire from prior students (judges)

- "How-to better-read citations, how not to mask"
- "More effective adjudication of CDL cases"
- "Understand the penalties of CDL holders"
- Correctly identifying the CDL holder and the vehicles they operate (personal vehicles vs. CMV vehicles)
- The reason Court awareness of the subject is so important

"I really don't handle many CDL cases"

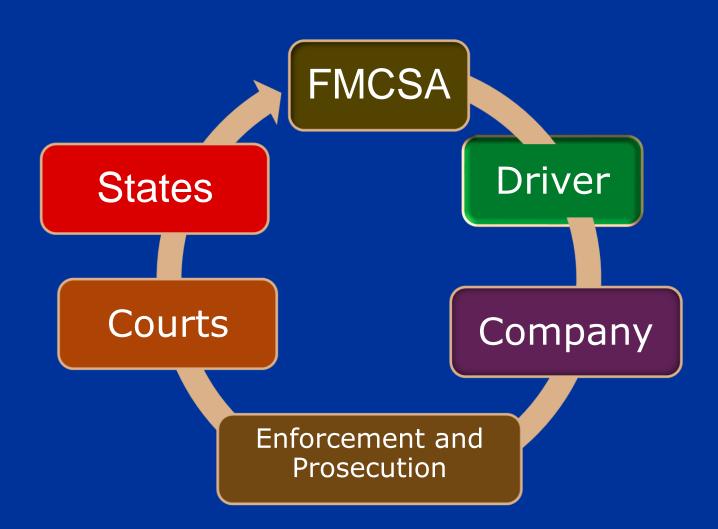
- Have you ever heard/said this?
- > Do you handle a traffic court?
- Why would you think you don't handle these cases?
- > How would you know?

Why Should You Care?



Why Should We Care?

Stakeholders



TOOLS OF THE TRADE









Canon 1

A judge shall Avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety

Rule 1.1: Compliance with the Law

A judge shall comply with the law, including the Code of Judicial Conduct.

Rule 1.2

Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary

A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary and shall avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.

Canon 2

A judge shall perform the duties of judicial office impartially, competently, and diligently

Rule 2.2: Impartiality and Fairness

A judge shall uphold and apply the law, and shall perform all duties of judicial office fairly and impartially.

Canon 2 Rule 2.2 Impartiality and Fairness

A Judge shall uphold and apply the law and shall perform all duties of judicial office fairly and impartially.

B. Administrative Responsibilities (2) Judges should require their staff and court officials subject to their direction and control to observe the standards of fidelity and diligence that apply to judges.

Masking

Because "masking" is prohibited to ensure all "convictions" appear on CDL history / record, one cannot comply with the masking prohibition unless the definition of "conviction" under 49 CFR 383.5 is understood.

The Basic Steps

CONSISTANT ENFORCEMENT

SUBJECT MATTER
KNOWLEDGE BY PEO/DEF

PROCEDURAL / COURT STAFF IDENTIFICATION OF THESE CASES

TIMELY AND PROPER CONVICTION RECORDING AT STATE LEVEL

WILL STOP MASKING

CONSISTANT ENFORCEMENT

- Common issues:
 - CVE Officers vs. Non-CVE Officers
 - Education varies
 - Perceptions vary
 - Opinions vary (ex: roadside reductions)
 - Masking is often not understood by most. Do not assume that it is.

CONSISTANT ENFORCEMENT

At: 1300 HRS

| | STATE OF NE | 7/454 | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Nevada Highwa | IV Patrol | 18-70 | 2. |
| In the Justice/Municipal Court: | County: DOUGLAS | | Citation | |
| EAST FORK JUSTICE COURT | Issue Date/Time; | 1/30/2018 1312 | Case # | |
| ☐ Juvenile | Violation Date/Time: | 1/30/2018 1255 | Acciden | |
| LOCATION AND VIOLATION INFOR | MATION | <u>:</u> | Type: TF | RAFFIC |
| Location: US395/DO8 BT/Sector:HRM44 | | ther: Clear | Road Cond | itions; Dry |
| Cited: 79 MPH Actual: 55 MPH | | affic: Light | Oire | ection: |
| Posted: 70 MPH Confirm: RADAR | Construct | School Zone: No lon Zone WP: No | Arre | st No |
| Grant *NONE | | Safety Zone:No | Accide | nt No |
| VIOLATOR / DRIVER | | | | |
| Name: | | | | |
| Address: | 011 | | | |
| Hgt 603 Wgt:235 Sex: M Hair | City: | Race:W D | State: | Zip: |
| DL# (CONFIDENCIA) OF ENGLISHING | | | OB; 10/4/ | Phone: |
| DL Expires: TO NRS 7398 0 Restriction | 2: | CDL: | | ass: A |
| VEHICLE Did operate the fo | llowing vehicle: | | | |
| Model: | The state of the s | Type: TR | State: ¶ | |
| Make: PETERSILT Color; REI | | h Tag: | Haz Mat N | 0 |
| Owner: Reg Exp: | V | eh Yr: 2016 | CMV: N | 0 |
| Address: | | | | |
| VIOLATIONS Did then and there | commit the follow | | | |
| VIOLATION 1 - CITATION - 4848 600 - 63863 - | Rasic Spend 11 20 O | wing offense | (s); | |
| VE70 | Danie Opeed 11-20 O | ver Limit | | |
| Sail: \$68 Admin Fee: \$50 Facility Fee: \$13 SP CT Fee: \$2 | | | | |
| Sail: \$68 Admin Fee: \$50 Facility Fee: \$13 SP CT Fee: \$7 Total: \$138 VIOLATION 2 - CITATION - 395,8 - 54411 - Log Book Violations | | | | |
| NO LOG BOOK | Book Violations | | | |
| Ball, Edge | _ | | | |
| Beil: 5108 Admin Fee: \$75 Facility Fee: \$13 | | Total: \$203 | | |
| I certify (or Declare) under penalty of perjury to grounds/probable cause to believe and do be | inder the laws of the | state of Nevada | that I have reason | nable |
| law. | ieve that above name | ed person comm | litted the above of | fense(s) contrary to |
| Trooper's Signature Complainar | nt's Signature | De | efendant's Signatu | tro. |
| 2/1 | * | | | |
| 12.7 | | | Served | |
| Trooper Bailey Citizen: | | This is | not a plea of guilty. | (Not void If unsigned) |
| Addr. City: | State: NV | 7ins | E. | |
| Failure to comply with this complaint or | future dates relating | to this complain | at will constitute a | constate offens. |
| Interpreter Needed: NONE | Court Marid | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | separate onense |
| Without admitting having committed the above of | | | | |
| notice and waive my right to be taken im | nediately before a | magistrate (NI | RS 484D 630 and | NRS 4844 750 |
| You are hereby ordered to appear to answer to the above charges on the day and time: | | | | |
| EAST FORK JUSTICE COURT | | | | |
| Physical: 1038 Buckeye Street: Minde | n, NV 89423 | | Total Bail: | \$341 |
| Mailing: PO Box 218; Minden, NV 89423 | | | Appear On: | 3/13/2018 |

http://eastforkjusticecourt.com

SPEEDING IN A CMV

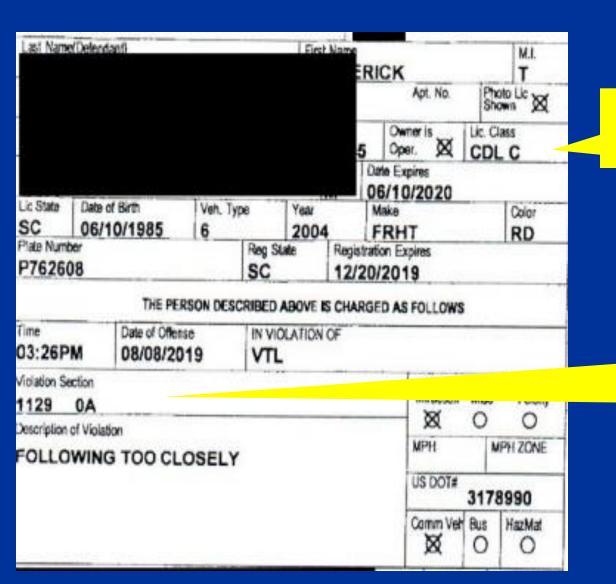
(What's wrong with this picture)

- → Cited Speed 70 mph
- > Actual speed 55 mph
- Posted speed 70 mph

Truck driver trapped for an hour in crash that closed I-81 North



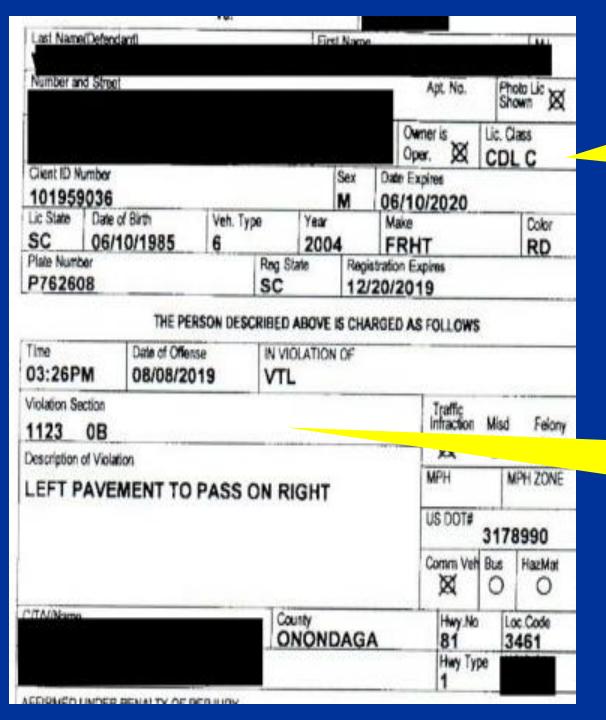
A little knowledge is dangerous



WRONG LICENSE CLASS

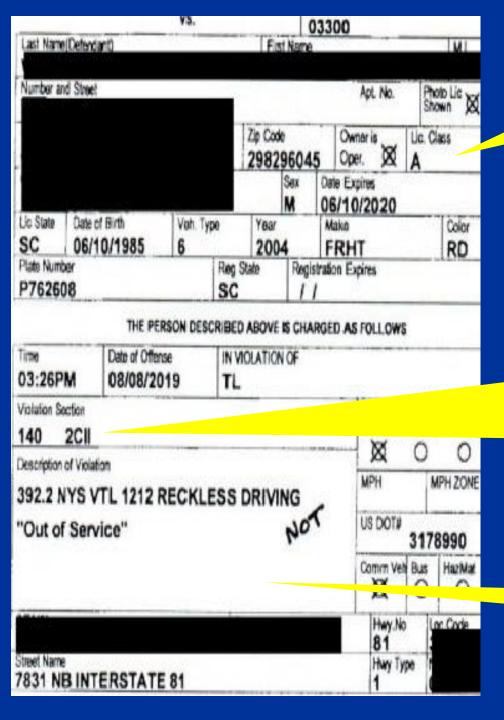
VIOLATION
FOLLOWING TOO
CLOSE

383.51 (Table2) (4)



WRONG LICENSE CLASS

IMPROPER LANE CHANGE 383.51 (Table 2) (3)



Class changed to Class A

Not
Vehicle and Traffic
Law
So no third serious
traffic violation !!!!
383.51 (Table2) (2)

An observant court clerk found this.

SUBJECT MATTER KNOWLEDGE BY PEO/DEF

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

PLEA AFFIDAVIT AND WAIVER OF APPEARANCE

-against-

Re. Case No.

Statute/Section VTL 1124

Description:

UNSAFE PASSING

Ticket No.

offers you the opportunity to plead guilty to reduced charge(s) of one or more counts of JAYWALKING, A NON-MOVING VIOLATION, IN The Prosecutor VIOLATION OF NEW YORK STATE VEHICLE & TRAFFIC LAW SECTION 1152(C). Under the offer you will pay a fine of \$150.00 and you will receive NO POINTS on your driver's license. If you would like to accept the Prosecutor's offer, execute the agreement on the reverse side of this letter, have it NOTARIZED, and remit with payment in full NO LATER THAN 24 HOURS prior to your hearing date. This plea offer shall EXPIRE 24 HOURS prior to the above court date. Your full payment of \$150.00 must be made on or before your scheduled HEARING DATE. CANADIANS payable to MUST PAY IN U.S. FUNDS!

If your driver's license is currently suspended due to your 'scofflaw status' in this court, the state mandated scofflaw lift fee indicated must be paid in CASH or MONEY ORDER to restore your driving privileges.

REDUCED PLEA OFFER: \$ 150.00

Total Fine Offered on Reduced Plea Offer

Points on License with Plea Offer

ORIGINAL CHARGES: \$ 238.00

Maximum Possible Amount in Fines and Surcharges

Maximum Points on License if Convicted 15

Maximum Days in Jail if Convicted









- Who was affected?
- Occupants of the vehicles and all acquaintances
- First responders, fire, police, medical, environmental spill?
- Co-workers or customers?
- Hospital and nursing home supplies were delayed in this incident



- Increased education will increase judicial awareness
- Remind yourself of the potential consequences when minimizing the outcome of these cases
- Timely adjudication and reporting of these cases no matter what the disposition may be



- Understand that these cases are not merely traffic cases
- The consequences of an incident are much more severe
- Are we the last resort to ensuring public safety?

PROCEDURAL / COURT STAFF IDENTIFICATION OF THESE CASES

- Citation identification needs to be a priority in every court at the time filed through timely disposition.
- The value the court clerks provide should not be minimized in identifying CDL/ CMV cases.
- Be aware and know the subject, reliance on the other parties minimizes the public's trust and confidence in our courts.
- Timely notifications of convictions !!!!!!!!

Why Should We Care?



What can we all do?

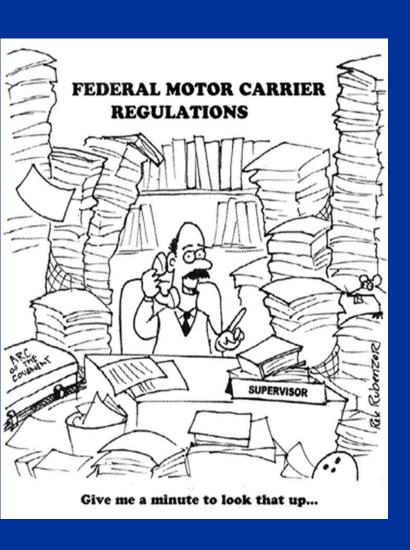
Very simple steps:

- Understand and recognize the stakeholders involved in the process.
- Understand the definitions:
 Disqualification and Conviction
- >Know the Citation

What can we all do?

- Locate the Disqualification Tables
- Recognize the importance of these few violations and the special attention needed when they are filed in your courts.
- > Has Covid changed driving habits?

A Quick Recap



PART 383—COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE STANDARDS; REQUIREMENTS AND PENALTIES

§383.51 Disqualification of drivers.

PART 384—STATE COMPLIANCE WITH COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE PROGRAM

§384.226 Prohibition on masking convictions.

A Simple Equation Conviction

- Be aware of the definition.
- Be aware of the prior record when the time is right.
- It's not always a CMV, it could be the personal vehicle with the family in it.
- Is it disqualifying?

A Simple Equation Conviction



Disqualification

(know the offenses: what they are and where to find them)

Table 1

Specific Violations

Table 1 to § 383.51 DISQUALIFICATIONS FOR MAJOR OFFENSES

Table 1 to §383.51 contains a list of the offenses and periods for which a person who is required to have a CLP or CDL is disqualified, depending upon the type of vehicle the driver is operating at the time of the violation, as follows:

| If a driver operates any motor vehicle and is convicted of: | For a first conviction or refusal to be tested while operating a CMV, a person required to have a CLP or CDL and a CLP or CDL backer must be disqualified from operating a CMV for | For a first conviction or refusal to be tested while operating a non-CMV, a CLP or CDL holder must be disqualified from operating a CMV for | For a first conviction or refusal to be tested while operating a CMV transporting hazardous materials required to be placarded under the Hazardous Materials Regulations (49 CFR part 172, subpart F), a person required to have a CLP or CDL and a CLP or CDL holder must be disqualified from operating a CMV for | For a second conviction or refusal to be tested in a separate incident of any combination of offenzes in this Table while operating a CMV, a person required to have a CLP or CDL and a CLP or CDL and a CLP or CDL hader must be disqualified from operating a CMV for | For a second conviction or refusal to be tested in a separate incident of any combination of offenses in this Table while operating a non-CMV, a CLP or CDL holder must be disqualified from operating a CMV for |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| (1) Being under the influence of alcohol as pre- scribed by State law | 1 year | 1 year | 3 years | Life | Life. |
| (2) Being under the influence of a controlled substance | 1 year | l year | 3 years | Life | Life. |
| (3) Having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater while operating a CMV | 1 year | Not applicable | 3 years | Life | Not applicable. |
| (4) Refusing to take an alcohol test as required by a State or jurisdiction under its implied consent laws or regulations as defined in §383.72 of this part | 1 year | 1 year | 3 years | Life | Life. |
| (5) Leaving the scene of an accident | 1 year | 1 year | 3 years | Life | Life. |
| (6) Using the vehicle to commit a felony, other than a felony described in para- graph (b)(9) of this table | 1 year | 1 year | 3 years | Life | Life. |
| (7) Driving a CMV when, as a result of prior violations committed operating a CMV, the driver's CDL is revoked, suspended, or canceled, or the driver is disqualified from operating a CMV | 1 year | Not applicable | 3 years | Life | Not applicable. |
| (8) Causing a fatality through the negligent operation of a CMV, including but not limited to the crimes of motor vehicle manslaughter, homicide by motor vehicle and negligent homicide | 1 year | Not applicable | 3 years | Life | Not applicable. |
| (9) Using the vehicle in the commission of a felony involving manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing a controlled substance | Life- not eligible for 10-year reinstatement | Life- not eligible for 10-year reinstatement | Life- not eligible for 10-year reinstatement | Life- not eligible for 10-year reinstatement | Life- not eligible for 10-year reinstatement |

Top Row
Describes
Vehicle and
Conviction
Event

49 CFR § 383.51(c) Warrants CDL Disqualification Upon Conviction for 2 or More "Serious Violations"



Table 2

Specific Violations

Table 2 to § 383.51 DISQUALIFICATIONS FOR SERIOUS TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS

Table 2 to §383.51 contains a list of the offenses and the periods for which a person who is required to have a CLP or CDL is disqualified, depending upon the type of vehicle the driver is operating at the time of the violation, as follows:

| If a driver operates any motor vehicle and is convicted of: | For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this Table in a separate incident within a 3-year period while operating a CMV, a person required to have a CLP or CDL and a CLP or CDL holder must be disqualified from operating a CMV for | For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this Table in a separate incident within a 3-year period while operating a non-CMV, a CLP or CDL holder must be disqualified from operating a CMV, if the conviction results in the revocation, cancellation, or suspension of the CLP or CDL holder's license or non-CMV driving privileg- | For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of offenses in this Table in a separate incident within a 3-year period while operating a CMV, a person required to have a CLP or CDL and a CLP or CDL holder must be disqualified from operating a CMV for | For a third or subsequent conviction of any combina- tion of offenses in this Table in a separate incident within a 3-year period while operating a non-CMV, a CLP or CDL holder must be disqualified from operating a CMV, if the conviction results in the revocation, cancellation, or suspension of the CLP or CDL holder's license or non-CMV |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| (1) Speeding excessively, involving any speed of 24.1 kmph (15 mph) or more above the posted speed limit | 60 days | es, for 60 days | 120 days | driving privileges, for 120 days. |
| (2) Driving recklessly, as de- fined by State or local law or regulation, including but, not limited to, offenses of driving a motor vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property | 60 days | 60 days | 120 days | 120 days. |
| (3) Making improper or erratic traffic lane changes | 60 days | 60 days | 120 days | 120 days. |
| (4) Following the vehicle ahead too closely | 60 days | 60 days | 120 days | 120 days. |
| (5) Violating State or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control (other than a parking violation) arising in connection with a fatal accident | 60 days | 60 days | 120 days | 120 days. |
| (6) Driving a CMV without obtaining a CDL 1 | 60 days | Not applicable | 120 days | Not applicable. |
| (7) Driving a CMV without a CDL in the driver's possession | 60 days | Not applicable | 120 days | Not applicable. |
| (8) Driving a CMV without the proper class of CDL and/or endorsements for the specific vehicle group being operated or for the passengers or type of cargo being transported | 60 days | Not applicable | 120 days | Not applicable. |
| (9) Violating a State or local law or ordinance on motor vehicle traffic control prohibit- ing texting while driving. ² | 60 days | Not applicable | 120 days | Not applicable. |
| (10) Violating a State or local law or ordinance on motor vehicle traffic control restrict- ing or prohibiting the use of a hand-held mobile telephone while driving a CMV. ² | 60 days | Not applicable | 120 days | Not applicable. |

¹ Any individual who provides proof to the enforcement authority that issued the citation, by the date the individual must appear in court or pay any fine for such a violation, that the individual held a valid CDL on the date the citation was issued, shall not be guilty of this offense.

Top Row
Describes
Vehicle and
Conviction
Event

² Driving, for the purpose of this disqualification, means operating a commercial motor vehicle on a highway, including while temporarily stationary because of traffic, a traffic control device, or other momentary delays. Driving does not include operating a commercial motor vehicle when the driver has moved the vehicle to the side of, or off, a highway and has halted in a location where the vehicle can safely remain stationary.

A Simple Equation

Conviction

+

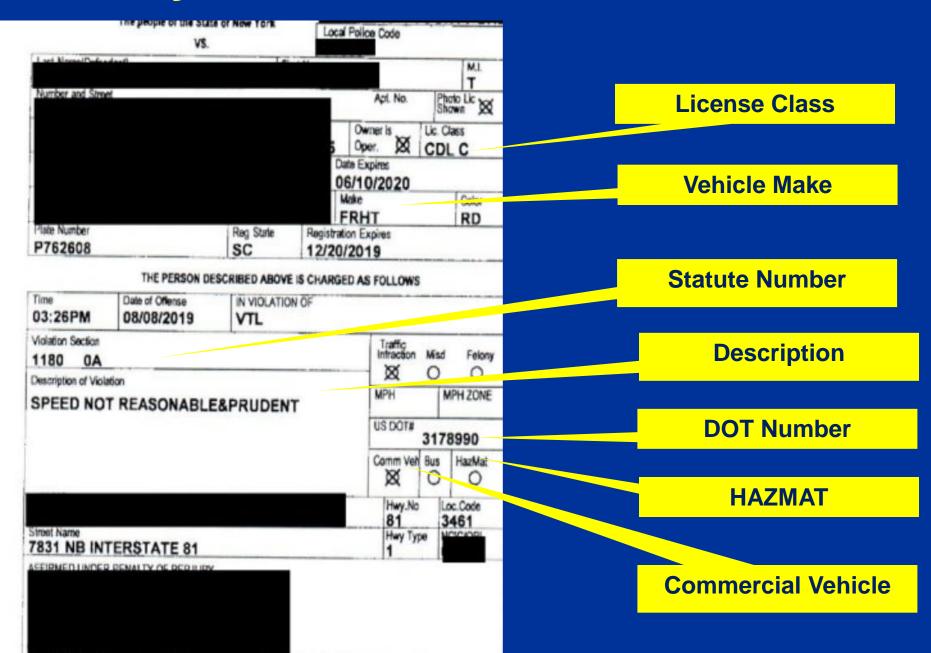
Disqualification



Citation Familiarization

Reductions of Masking Incidents

Key Identifiers in the Citation



Do Traffic Violations Matter?

- Table at right is from: Boris, C., & Murray, D. (2018). Predicting Truck Crash Involvement: 2018 Update. The American Transportation Research Institute. Arlington, Virginia. Page 15.
- Research shows certain traffic violation are associated with an increased likelihood of being involved in a crash
- Those with Reckless Driving violations and Failure to Yield Right of Way violations were more than twice as likely to be involved in a crash compared to those without these violations
- Drivers with certain violation types in their records are more likely than those without those violations to be involved in crashes later
- Masking of offenses prevents drivers from being disqualified

Table 4: Summary of Crash Likelihood for All Data Analyzed

| If a driver had: | The crash likelihood increased: | Sig |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----|
| A Reckless Driving violation | 114% | ** |
| A Failure to Yield Right of Way violation | 101% | *** |
| A Failure to Keep in Proper Lane conviction | 83% | ** |
| A Failure to Use / Improper Signal conviction | 82% | ** |
| A Past Crash | 74% | *** |
| An Improper Lane / Location conviction | 72% | *** |
| An Improper Pass conviction | 70% | ** |
| A Reckless / Careless / Inattentive / Negligent Driving conviction | 69% | *** |
| An Improper or Erratic Lane Changes conviction | 66% | *** |
| An Improper Lane Change violation | 63% | *** |
| An Hours-of-Service violation | 50% | *** |
| An Improper Turn conviction | 49% | * |
| A Following Too Close conviction | 46% | ** |
| A Speeding violation | 45% | *** |
| A False or No Log Book violation | 45% | *** |
| A Disqualified Driver violation | 44% | *** |
| Any conviction | 43% | *** |
| A Speeding More Than 15 Miles over Speed Limit conviction | 40% | *** |
| A Speeding 1 to 15 Miles over Speed Limit conviction | 38% | ** |
| Any Moving violation | 35% | *** |
| A Seat Belt violation | 33% | *** |
| A Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device violation | 30% | *** |
| Any OOS violation | 29% | *** |
| A Failure to Obey Traffic Sign conviction | 25% | ** |
| A Driving Too Fast for Conditions conviction | 25% | * |
| A Size and Weight violation | 20% | *** |
| A Failure to Obey Traffic Signal / Light conviction | 20% | * |
| A Reckless Driving conviction | | ns |
| An Improper Turn violation | | ns |
| A Failure to Yield Right of Way conviction | | ns |
| An Improper Passing violation | | ns |
| A Following Too Close violation | | ns |
| A Medical Certificate violation | | ns |
| A Failure to Obey Yield Sign conviction | | ns |
| A Failure to Obey Warning Light / Flasher conviction | | ns |

Significant at p< .05

^{**}Significant at p< .01
***Significant at p< .001

ns = non-significant

Table 2

Specific Violations

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|---|--|---|---|--|
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| (2) Driving recklessly, as defined by State or local law or regulation, including but, not limited to, offenses of driving a motor vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property | 60 days | 60 days | 120 days | 120 days. |
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Finally

Is there anything you may do differently now that we've offered you some tools to repair some of the breakdowns?

QUESTIONS



Thanks for taking the time today to do your part in improving safety on our highways. Let's continue to prevent breaking the chain that binds us.

Something to think about...

"Two roads diverged in a woods, and I—I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference".



"Robert Frost"