Recent Updates to the PA Motor Vehicle Code

• The Steer Clear law requires motorists to move into a lane that is not adjacent to an emergency response area. An emergency response area is an area on or near a road where services are being provided by police or other emergency personnel. If drivers cannot move over because of traffic or other conditions, they must reduce their speed. Failure to move over or slow down can result in a fine or possible license suspension.

• This headlight/windshield wiper law requires motorists to turn on their headlights anytime their vehicles wipers are in continuous or intermittent use due to weather conditions. Daytime running lights are not enough. Failure to comply could result in a fine.

• Motorists will face severe fines if snow or ice that falls from their moving vehicle causes injury or death to other motorists or pedestrians.

What information is most important when involved in an accident?

1. Never leave the scene of the accident.

- 2. If another vehicle is involved, be sure the occupants also stay at the scene of the accident.
- 3. Wait for the police and emergency medical personnel to arrive.
- 4. Information needed to be exchanged at the scene of the accident includes:

(6-09)

- □ Name and address of drivers.
- Registration number of the vehicle.
- Driver's license.
- Proof of insurance.



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DRIVERS...



Common Violations

• Pennsylvania residents, unless specifically exempted, are required to have a valid Pennsylvania driver's license to drive legally upon Pennsylvania's highways. Failure to be licensed carries a fine.

• Be sure the registration plate is securely fastened to the vehicle to which it is assigned. If the plate is lost or stolen, you have 48 hours in which to report the loss or theft to police and to apply to PENNDOT for a new plate.

• Any person caught driving a vehicle while his driving privilege is suspended, revoked or recalled shall have his driving privilege suspended for one year and be sentenced to pay a fine.

• A "habitual offender's" driving privilege shall be revoked for five years. A habitual offender is defined as an individual whose driving record shows three convictions within five years for any one or more of the following offenses, whether committed singly or in combination:

 Any violation relating to serious traffic offenses, such as driving under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.

- Any violation relating to racing on highways.

 Any violation relating to accidents involving death or personal injury.

- Any violation relating to accidents involving death or personal injury while not properly licensed.

– Any violation relating to accidents involving damage to an attended vehicle or property.

Any further offense within a five-year period shall mean a revocation for an additional two years. Revocation requires a person to start all over again with a learner's permit in order to restore driving privilege.

• If an individual fails to respond to a citation in a timely fashion, his/her license will be suspended until a response is made.

• You are required to maintain vehicle liability insurance (financial responsibility) on a currently registered vehicle. Such insurance covers the property damage or injuries you may cause others in an accident. Your insurance company is required to notify PENNDOT of cancellation or non-renewal of your auto insurance policy.

• If you are stopped and are operating your vehicle without insurance, you could face the following penalties and expenses:

- minimum \$300 fine.
- three-month registration suspension.
- three-month driving privilege suspension.
- \$50 restoration fee for registration.
- \$50 restoration fee for driver's license.
- no one may drive that vehicle while registration is suspended.

• If you are stopped for a violation, authorities may want to perform a chemical alcohol test to determine if you are driving under the influence (DUI). This test can be done three ways: by breath, blood or urine.

If you refuse to take any requested chemical test, there is an automatic one-year suspension of driving privilege. If your blood-alcohol level is 0.08 percent or greater, you will be deemed to be driving while under the influence of alcohol. The penalty changes with the severity of the charge and whether you have had previous offenses.

• If you are signaled by a police officer - by a visual or audible signal - to bring your vehicle to a stop and you are guilty of attempting to flee from the police officer, you can be sentenced to pay a minimum fine of \$500 plus a one-year suspension of your driving privileges.

•All drivers and front seat passengers in vehicles, light trucks and motor homes must wear seat belts.

• Persons convicted of speeding in an active work zone (where workers are present) can lose their driver's license for 15 days. Also, persons who are convicted of driving their vehicle at an aunsafe speed and have an accident as a result will lose their driver's license for 15 days.

Beware of accidents. The penalty can be very serious.

• Homicide by vehicle - Any person who unintentionally causes the death of another person while engaged in the violation of a Commonwealth or municipal ordinance. This is a felony of the third degree when the violation is the cause of death.

• The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident resulting in injury or death of any person should immediately stop their vehicle at the scene of the accident. You must stay at the scene of the accident until all requirements regarding information and rendering aid have been met.

• A driver of a vehicle involved in an accident resulting in damage to another vehicle or property should immediately stop the vehicle at the scene of the accident without obstructing traffic. You should stay at the scene of the accident until you have provided all information and answered all questions to the police officer at the scene of the accident.

• If you're involved in an accident in which the vehicle or property is unattended you should immediately stop your vehicle and locate or notify the operator or owner of the damaged vehicle or property.

Change of Name or Address

All licensed drivers are required to notify the department of any change of name or address within 15 days of the change. You must indicate your driver's license number, old name and address and your new name and/or new address as mandated by the Motor Vehicle Code.