



DRIVER IMPROVEMENT POLICY

Please note, the following policy was adopted by the City Prosecutor to facilitate fairness in the plea-bargaining process.

It is the duty of all Attorneys and Pro-Se (self-represented) Defendants to “self-screen” against this policy. Pro-Se Litigants must perform the driver improvement program **before** contacting the prosecutor.

WHO DOES THIS POLICY APPLY TO?

This policy applies only to the following defendants:

- Any person with a traffic conviction* in the last year.
 - This is the 12 calendar months before the current citation date.
 - * For this purpose of the prosecutor’s review, this **DOES** include SIS dispositions, and tickets which were amended to any “non-moving violation,” such as no-point speeding or defective equipment.
 - Not included are citations which were *received* for non-moving reasons, such as license plate violations and burnt-out vehicle lighting.
- Any person who is currently charged with exceeding the speed limit by 26 mph or more.
- Any person who is currently charged with a significant moving violation, such as Careless & Imprudent (C&I), DWI, or Excessive BAC.
- Any violation involving a work zone, emergency zone, school bus, or an accident.
- Other persons, when directed by the prosecutor.

DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REQUIRED

Pro-Se Defendants (Self-represented): If you fall into *any* category above, you must submit a completed Missouri-Approved Driver Improvement Program (DIP) certificate to the prosecutor with your “Request for Review” Form.

- Do NOT contact the prosecutor until a DIP is completed.
- This DIP certificate must reflect a completion date of on/after the current offense date.

- Completing a DIP and sending the DIP certificate to the prosecutor does NOT guarantee a plea offer will be made. The discretion to issue offers remains solely the prosecutor's.

Attorneys: Please see the attorneys' directions for the most up-to-date submission procedure.

FINDING A PROGRAM

A list of approved programs is available at:

<http://mosafetycenter.com/grants/driver-improvement-program/>

Most of these programs are fully on-line and can be completed at a defendant's leisure. In-person options also exist.

TIMING OF COURT DATES

Occasionally, the process of requesting a prosecutor's review begins too close to the original court date. If requested, the prosecutor will support a request for a month's continuance so a defendant has time to complete a DIP, provide the certificate to the prosecutor, and receive any potential offer.

Please contact the Court Clerk for a continuance, (417) 739-4922.

Note: Persons failing to dispose of their cases before their court date, and who fail to secure a continuance from the court, must appear in court on their assigned date and time.