

# Driving Offences

## Overview

Facing charges for committing a driving offence, such as dangerous driving or driving without insurance is serious and comes with a number of different penalties and fines. The majority of driving offences will require court appearances and as such you should seek advice from a driving defence lawyer as this may save you from losing your licence and in some cases a prison sentence.

Our experts are accustomed to the process and also procedures, which will enable us to identify any issues to fight your corner.



## Dangerous & Careless Driving

Dangerous Driving is the most serious (non-fatal) road traffic offence that a motorist can face. If convicted, you could receive a prison sentence of up to two years as well as a lengthy disqualification from driving. You may also be required to take a re-test when re-applying for your licence.

Our team have in-depth knowledge of the procedures that need to be followed if you have been accused of committing a driving offence. Calling your driving defence lawyer early on could save you your licence.

## Driving without due care and attention

The sentencing implications for a conviction of careless driving are much less than those of dangerous driving. The maximum sentence is a fine up to £5,000 coupled with 3-9 penalty points or a disqualification from driving.

Having our team on your side to assess your case could help minimise a potential fine or loss of penalty points.

## Death by Dangerous Driving

There are two possible "death by..." offences that a motorist could face in the event that the standard of their driving causes someone's death. They are:-

- Dangerous driving
- Careless driving (only)

Each offence carries a prison sentence, loss of licence and re-tests when re-applying for your licence.

Getting assistance to guide you through this process is imperative, which is why it is important to seek advice early on. Having someone to help you through this time is essential and knowing you have a highly experienced lawyer in this area on your side is reassuring.

## Driving without insurance

It is an offence to drive a motor vehicle without a valid insurance policy.

The standard sentence to be imposed if you are convicted is extremely harsh. The starting point is an automatic endorsement of at least 6 penalty points and a fine of up to £5,000.

It is also an offence to permit another person to use your vehicle without insurance. If convicted you could also face the same penalty if you have yourself been driving whilst uninsured. Legal advice will help you to navigate your options.

## New drivers

Any driver that accumulates 6 penalty points within the first 2 years of passing their driving test will automatically lose their driving licence and have to re-sit their driving test again. Although this is not a formal "disqualification", the process for applying for a new provisional licence and passing the necessary tests can take between 3-6 months, so has the same effect as a disqualification. In certain circumstances the imposition of 6 points can be avoided therefore keeping a new driver on the road. Expert representation is essential in these circumstances.

## Using a mobile telephone whilst driving

It is an offence to use a hand-held mobile telephone whilst driving. We see this on a daily basis. However any driver who is found using their mobile telephone whilst driving will be fined. This offence carries a standard, 3 point endorsement and a fine of up to £1,000 and can in some instances, cause drivers to lose their licence for 6 months or more.

Seeking advice early on from our driving defence lawyer could help your case.

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## Traffic Light Offence

Any driver convicted of contravening a traffic signal will automatically be given an endorsement of 3 penalty points on their licence. At times, these cases can be defendable.

Contact one of the team who will assess your case and your options.

## Failure to stop or report an accident

It is an offence to fail to stop (at the scene) and report an accident if injury has been caused to someone other than the driver of the vehicle or if damage has been caused.

It is important that the driver exchanges details with the other parties at the scene. Alternatively you must report the accident to a police officer or at a police station within 24 hours of the accident.

Sentencing powers of the Courts are very powerful and stringent. If convicted, you could receive up to 26 weeks in prison, penalty point endorsements, between 5-10 points and a £5,000 fine.

Having a team on your side to assess your case and put forward relevant points, could help get the best outcome for you.



Please feel free to discuss your own position and concerns. Contact your nearest office on:

**T:** 0808 175 7998  
**E:** [enquiries@slatergordon.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@slatergordon.co.uk)  
**W:** [www.slatergordon.co.uk](http://www.slatergordon.co.uk)

## Perverting the Course of Justice

In some cases there can be an over-lap between Road Traffic Law and general criminal offences, some of which can be serious and bring with them long prison sentences.

The most common charge is perverting the course of public justice. This relates to the completion of various forms attached to notices of intended prosecution aka-speeding tickets. An example of this type of offence would be getting someone to take your points from a misdemeanour.

Our legal team will help those who have been accused of these type of matters.

## What you should do?

You need a specialist lawyer with in-depth knowledge who you can trust to guide you through the process and seek to resolve your matter quickly. Contact our driving defence lawyer. Call 0808 175 7998

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There are a number of driving offences and each of them comes with different penalties. Getting advice early is key - don't wait until it's too late.

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