WHAT IS A HARDSHIP LICENSE?

It is a Class E license with a restriction that allows you to drive with limitations while you are otherwise suspended, revoked or cancelled. There are two types of hardship license restrictions:

- Business Purposes Only........................................ C Restriction
- Employment Purposes Only................................. D Restriction

Note: Hardship license restrictions cannot be added to Commercial Driver Licenses (CDL). Therefore, if you have a CDL license and you are granted a hardship license, you must downgrade your license to a Class E.

WHO ISSUES HARDSHIP LICENSES?

The Bureau of Administrative Review (BAR) holds formal and informal hearings for hardship licenses. They also have the ability to issue hardship licenses, and they do so for the majority that they grant. However, you may be referred to our office for issuance of the hardship license, subject to verification of hardship approval.

Clearwater BAR Office
4585 140th Ave. North, Ste 1002
Clearwater, FL 33762
(727) 507-4405
Approximately 38 miles from us

Tampa BAR Office
2814 E Hillsborough Ave.
Tampa, FL 33610
(813) 276-5795
Approximately 52 miles from us

Be prepared to pay the applicable fees for the hearing and hardship license filing.

- Formal or Informal Review Filing Fee - $25.00
- Hardship Hearing Filing Fee - $12.00

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A HARDSHIP LICENSE?

In many cases, if your license has been suspended, revoked or cancelled, you will have the option to request a hardship license by way of a hearing at the BAR Office. This does not mean that you will automatically be granted a hardship license. BAR Hearing Officers review
your circumstance to determine the necessity of a hardship license, and may or may not grant it if they feel it’s not entirely necessary or if you are ineligible.

Note: Our office will not advise you as to whether or not you are eligible for a hardship license. You must contact a BAR Office for more details.

### ARE THERE SITUATIONS THAT ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A HARDSHIP LICENSE?

Yes, there are many suspensions, revocations and cancellations that are automatically ineligible for a hardship license. Below are some of the more common reasons that make you automatically ineligible:

- DUI convictions involving 5 or 10 year revocations - 322.271 (2)(a)
- Second and subsequent REFUSAL - 322.271 (2)(a)
- DUBAL with two DUI convictions or two prior REFUSALS - 322.271 (2)(a)
- Felony Possession of Controlled Substance - 322.27 (6)
- Theft of Motor Vehicle, Parts or Components (unless ordered by trial judge) - 322.274
- Child Support Delinquency
- Fail to Pay Fines, Fail to Appear (D6 suspensions)
- Suspensions resulting from the Drop-out Law (School attendance)
- Possession of Tobacco by a Minor
- Financial Responsibility Suspensions
- Permanent DUI Manslaughter with prior or subsequent DUI convictions - 322.271 (4)
- Murder Resulting from the Operation of a Motor Vehicle - 322.28 (3)
- DUI Serious Bodily Injury with two or more prior DUI convictions - 322.271 (2)(a)

### WHAT IF I AM DENIED A HARDSHIP LICENSE?

If you are denied a hardship license, you will be required to wait out your entire suspension/revocation time and will not be permitted to drive during that time.

### HARDSHIP RESTRICTION IS EXPIRING. HOW DO I REMOVE IT FROM MY LICENSE?

After your suspension or revocation period is over, the hardship restriction will automatically drop off your driving record. You can resume driving with full privileges and you are not required to obtain a new license. The expiration date of the restriction will appear on the license for law enforcement to use in determining the restriction no longer applies.

If you are more comfortable with a new license without a hardship restriction, a replacement may be issued for $31.25. If you opt to purchase a replacement, you will be required to provide documents that establish your identity pursuant to the Real ID Act (e.g., US birth certificate, proof of name change(s), US passport, USCIS (INS) documents, Social Security Card and 2 proofs of residential address) unless you already have a Real ID compliant Florida driver license. For a complete list of acceptable identity documents, visit flhsmv.gov/whattobring. Non-Immigrants must have at least 61 days remaining on their legal presence documentation.

Note: If you are caught in violation of your restriction during the restriction period, your restriction period may be extended on your driving record and you may receive a suspension. If this happens, your old license will show an old expiration date and your hardship restriction will not automatically drop off your driving record until the new expiration date has passed. You should purchase a replacement license for $31.25 to show the new expiration date.

Not a Manatee County resident? Out-of-County residents can only be served at our Driver License Office, located at 904 301 Blvd W, Bradenton. An appointment is required. Visit taxcollector.com to schedule an appointment. You must select the “Non-Manatee County Resident DL/ID Card Transaction” Service in order to be served. Testing services (e.g. road testing, written exams) are provided for Manatee County residents only.

---

**NOTE:** The information in this document is believed to be correct and is subject to change and is not warranted.

HardshipLicense – Last Update: 06/02/2020

**** THIS TRANSACTION MAY ONLY BE PROCESSED AT THE DRIVER LICENSE OFFICE ****