

This factsheet explains how to get a limited licence and the criteria you must meet to get one. It also explains how to reinstate your licence after your limited licence has expired and your suspension or disqualification has ended.

If your suspension or disqualification will cause you extreme hardship, or another person undue hardship, you **might** be able to get a limited licence.

## Step 1: Apply to the court

A lawyer can assist you to apply for a court order authorising you to get a limited licence. They'll get the documents ready and present them to the court. Applications are considered by the courts on a case-by-case basis, using the criteria in sections 103 to 105 of the Land Transport Act 1998. If the court order is granted, then you **must** obtain a limited licence from the Transport Agency **before** you can drive.

## Step 2: Apply to the Transport Agency

You can apply at any driver licensing agent; these are selected branches of the Automobile Association, Vehicle Inspection New Zealand and Vehicle Testing New Zealand.

You'll need to complete an application form (DL15), pay the limited licence application fee (\$39.30) and present evidence of your identity. The application form contains all the information for applying to the Transport Agency for a limited licence.

The agent **cannot** issue you with a temporary licence when you submit your application. This is because section 30(5) of the act places responsibility on the Transport Agency to be satisfied that you're entitled to a limited licence **before** issuing any limited licence (including any temporary limited licence).

## Step 3: The Transport Agency will assess your application

The agent will forward your application to the Transport Agency for processing. Your application will be assessed within four days of it being received.

## Step 4 option A: The Transport Agency declines or delays your application

When assessing your application, the Transport Agency must consider the criteria in sections 103 and 104 of the act. If your application and/or the court order don't comply with the criteria in these sections, your application may be declined or delayed.

Examples of where the Transport Agency may decline issuing you a limited licence include when:

- your licence is suspended under a driver licence stop order (DLSO)
- your licence is suspended or revoked on medical grounds
- you're serving a 28-day licence suspension for excess speed or alcohol

- you're indefinitely disqualified for repeat alcohol and/or drug driving offences
- your court order indicates you may drive vehicles for which you didn't hold a current licence at the time your suspension or disqualification started
- your court order indicates you may conduct driving tests or act as a driving instructor
- your court order indicates you may drive in a passenger service (except where demerit points were the only reason for the licence suspension and where you can prove that no more than 20 of these points were accumulated while driving in a passenger service)
- your court order indicates you may drive in a transport service, if you were disqualified for excess alcohol while operating a transport service vehicle
- you're disqualified for driving while already disqualified or suspended
- you're disqualified for certain offences causing death or injury
- you received another disqualification after the court order was granted
- you've been given an alcohol interlock sentence by the court and haven't yet been issued an alcohol interlock licence
- you have an alcohol interlock licence and haven't been approved to exit the alcohol interlock programme.

Examples of where the Transport Agency may delay issuing you a limited licence include when:

- section 104(1) of the act requires you to serve a 28-day stand-down period\*.
- you haven't provided all the necessary information or your application is incomplete.

\* If a 28-day stand-down period applies, you can still apply to the court within that 28-day period. However, any court order issued within the 28-day stand-down period should clearly state that no limited licence can be issued within that 28-day period. The Transport Agency will apply the 28-day period even if it's not stated on the court order.

If your application isn't granted, you'll be sent a letter outlining the reasons why and advising you of your right of appeal to the District Court.

## Step 4 option B: The Transport Agency grants your application

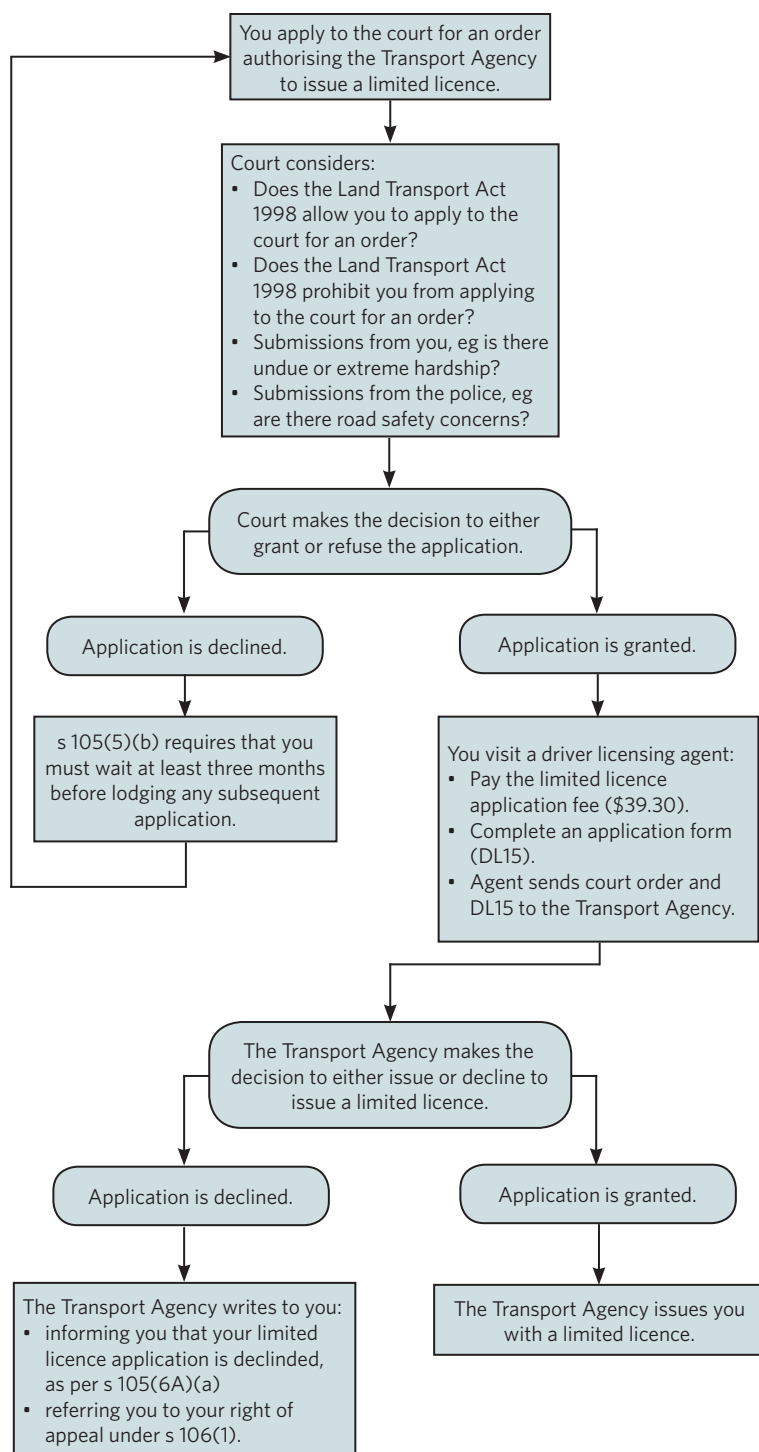
If your application is granted, the Transport Agency will issue you a temporary limited licence to use while your photographic limited licence is being made and mailed to you.

When driving, you must carry both your limited licence **and** your court order at all times.

If you hold a limited licence and receive a further disqualification, your limited licence is automatically revoked and you're no longer entitled to drive. You must surrender your revoked limited licence to the court, the police, the Transport Agency or an authorised agent of the Transport Agency.

If you hold a limited licence and you're subsequently suspended under a DLSO, your limited licence is automatically revoked and you're no longer entitled to drive. You must surrender your revoked limited licence to the Ministry of Justice.

### Overview of the limited licence application process



The information in this factsheet is a general guide only. It is not the source of the law and should not be used in place of authoritative legal documents. Some factsheets are updated frequently and print versions can quickly become out of date. If the currency of the information you are reading is important, check the factsheet index on our website ([www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets)) or call us on 0800 822 422.

## Reinstating your licence

After your limited licence has expired, and at the end of your suspension or disqualification, you'll remain unlicensed and are not entitled to drive until you've applied at a driver licensing agent to have your licence reinstated and a new licence has been issued. Any licence card held by you at the time of your suspension or disqualification will have been permanently cancelled.

When applying to reinstate your licence you'll need to:

- complete an *Application for reissue of driver licence form (DL7)*
- provide acceptable evidence of identity (see Factsheet 20 *Identification for driver licensing*)
- prove your eyesight meets the required standard
- have your image and signature captured
- pay the reinstatement fee of \$66.40.

If you served more than 12 months of your disqualification before the courts authorised you to get a limited licence, you'll also need to resit the appropriate tests or courses (and pay the test or course fees) to regain the licence classes previously held.

If you only hold an overseas driver licence, you won't be allowed to drive again in New Zealand until you get a New Zealand driver licence.

If you drive after your suspension or disqualification has ended but before your licence has been reinstated, you could be fined and forbidden to drive. If you then continue to drive without reinstating your licence, you could be charged with driving while forbidden and have the vehicle impounded. For more information see Factsheet 63 *Impoundment of your vehicle at the roadside*.

## Medical certificates

A medical certificate is usually required if you're reinstating a class 2, 3, 4 or 5 licence, if you have a medical condition which affects your driving or if you're 75 years of age or over. However, if you're under 75 years of age, you may not have to present a medical certificate if you've already presented one within the last five years, and you sign a declaration.

Medical certificates must:

- be original
- be from a New Zealand-registered health practitioner - this can be your usual doctor (GP), a registered nurse or nurse practitioner, or a specialist if appropriate
- be no more than 60 days old
- state that you are safe to drive, or set out the conditions under which you can drive.

### Contact details

- Call us: 0800 822 422.
- Visit our website: [www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz).
- Email us: [info@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:info@nzta.govt.nz).
- Write to us: NZ Transport Agency, Private Bag 11777, Palmerston North 4442.