

# Ignition Interlock Program



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**Manitoba  
Public Insurance**

# Ignition Interlock Program

If you've lost your driver's licence because of an impaired driving conviction or have received a Tiered Administrative Licence Suspension\*, Manitoba's Ignition Interlock Program may allow you to gain conditional driving privileges if you meet the requirements. The program is designed to stop a vehicle from starting or operating when the driver has been drinking.

*\*Drivers operating a motor vehicle with a blood alcohol concentration between .05 and .08 or who fail a physical coordination test are subject to a Tiered Administrative Licence Suspension. Tiered Administrative Licence Suspensions are progressively longer suspensions ranging from 24 hours to 60 days, depending on how many previous suspensions have been issued to the driver within a 10-year period.*

## How the program works

If you have been convicted of an impaired driving offence, you must be granted permission by the court to have your driving prohibition period reduced and participate in the Ignition Interlock Program. You must also be granted a conditional licence by the Licence Suspension Appeal Board (LSAB), which will include the use of ignition interlock as one of the restrictions during your prohibition and suspension period.

If you qualify for the program, you must have an ignition interlock device installed on your vehicle at a designated ignition interlock service provider and must return to the service provider regularly. The service provider will inspect the equipment and transfer the recorded information to Manitoba Public Insurance.

Note: A discharge under the *Criminal Code of Canada* for certain driving related offences may be treated as a conviction under *The Highway Traffic Act*.



## What is an ignition interlock device and how does it work?

An ignition interlock device is an in-car, alcohol breath-screening device that is wired into the vehicle's ignition. It stops a vehicle from starting if it detects alcohol on the driver's breath. The device is located inside the vehicle, near the driver's seat.

Before starting the vehicle, the driver must blow into the device. If the device detects alcohol, the vehicle will not start.

Once the vehicle is started, the interlock device requires the driver to provide breath samples at random while the engine is running. If a sample is not provided or if the device detects alcohol, the device will issue a warning, record the event and set off an alarm system until an acceptable sample is provided or the ignition is turned off.

The device keeps a record of the driver's alcohol level every time there is an attempt to start the vehicle and for every sample provided while the vehicle is running.



## How to participate in the Ignition Interlock Program

**Step 1** – You must be granted a conditional driver's licence in order to participate in this program.

To obtain a conditional licence if you have been convicted of an impaired driving offence you must:

- Be granted permission by the court to participate in the Ignition Interlock Program and have your driving prohibition period reduced.
- Serve the minimum prohibition period ordered by the court.
- File an assessment from the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba for approval.
- Apply to the LSAB for a conditional licence on the grounds of exceptional hardship. You may be asked to provide a letter from your employer to support your need for a driver's licence. Even if the court authorized you to apply for the Ignition Interlock Program, the LSAB can deny an application in the interest of public safety.

To obtain a conditional licence if you have been issued a Tiered Administrative Licence Suspension you must:

- Apply to the LSAB for a conditional licence on the grounds of exceptional hardship. You may be asked to provide a letter from your employer to support your need for a driver's licence. The LSAB can deny an application in the interest of public safety.

- Complete an application for an appeal to the LSAB and pay the required charge. Appeal applications are available at the LSAB office at 200–301 Weston Street, Winnipeg, MB R3E 3H4, telephone 204–945–7350, or at any Manitoba Public Insurance Service Centre.

You will be advised of its decision by certified mail.

**Step 2** – If the LSAB grants you a conditional driver’s licence, you must also meet all other licensing requirements established by the Registrar. All licensing charges and an ignition interlock administration charge of \$50 must be paid at a Manitoba Public Insurance Service Centre.

**Step 3** – Contact the designated ignition interlock service provider in Manitoba to arrange for installation of the ignition interlock device. You will be required to produce your administration charge receipt.



**Step 4** – Report to the ignition interlock service provider regularly to have the ignition interlock device serviced.

## Basic program charges

Installation charge: **\$150.00**

Monitoring charge (per month): **\$105.00**

De-installation charge: **\$50.00**

*Applicable taxes will be added to all charges.*

## Questions & Answers

### Who pays the cost of an ignition interlock device?

Drivers in the Ignition Interlock Program are responsible for all installation, maintenance and removal costs of the device. Manitoba has authorized Guardian Interlock Systems as the official service provider for this program.

For further installation information and costs, please call Guardian Interlock Systems 1-866-658-6374.

### What will happen if I don't comply with the Ignition Interlock Program rules?

If you do not comply with the rules of the Ignition Interlock Program you may be subject to one of the following:

- extension of the ignition interlock term
- removal from the program
- driver's licence suspension

## **What will happen if I am convicted of tampering with the device?**

You can be ordered to:

- pay a fine of up to \$1000
- be imprisoned for up to six months
- pay a fine and be imprisoned
- re-apply to the LSAB for further consideration

## **Can someone who is not in the Ignition Interlock Program be charged with an offence?**

Yes, you can be charged with an offence if you:

- are a vehicle owner who knows that a person is in the Ignition Interlock Program and let that person drive your vehicle without an ignition interlock device
- provide a breath sample for another person

## **Can drivers with breathing problems use the ignition interlock device?**

Yes, most breathing problems will not stop you from operating the device. Only a few seconds of non-stop blowing into the device is required. The ignition interlock provider will provide advice and assistance for specific problems.

## **Will other people be able to drive the vehicle?**

Yes, however anyone who drives the vehicle, including family and friends, must use the interlock device before they can start the vehicle. The device has a number of features that make it difficult to provide a proper

breath sample without having been shown by a qualified service technician. Each breath sample is recorded and applies to the record of the program participant.

### **Can a driver be required to participate in the Ignition Interlock Program without an impaired driving conviction?**

Yes, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles can order you to take part in the program as a condition of your driver's licence.

### **Under what circumstance would the use of an ignition interlock device become mandatory?**

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles will require mandatory post-suspension ignition interlock use for repeat offenders and persons convicted of impaired driving causing bodily harm or death, or impaired driving offences involving passengers under 16 years of age. This mandatory use of an ignition interlock device is for a specified amount of time after you have served any court imposed prohibition and/or suspension periods.



For more information on the Ignition Interlock Program please contact:

**Manitoba Public Insurance  
Alcohol and Drug Program**

Box 6300, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4A4

Telephone: **204-985-7694**

Toll Free: **1-866-323-0546**

This pamphlet is for general information only. For specific information about the legislation see *The Highway Traffic Act* and/or *The Drivers and Vehicles Act* and regulations. All charges, additional premiums and fines are subject to change.

**[mpi.mb.ca](http://mpi.mb.ca)**



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