

Driver Improvement Program

DIP Q & A

Q. What is a SIS (Suspended Imposition of Sentence)?

- A. The traffic violation will not show on your driving record with completion of all provisions of your probation including completion of your *Defensive Driving Course (DDC-8)* within the allotted time ordered by the court (example 60, 90, 120 days).

Q. What does “in lieu of points” mean?

- A. In the state of Missouri a violation **will not** accrue points on your driver’s license per the Department of Revenue if an 8-hour *Defensive Driving Course (DDC-8)* is taken **within a 60 day period** of paying the Fine Collection Center for your ticket OR **within 60 days from going to court** (the judge MUST order the class). The violation **will** remain on your driving record.

Q. What is the Fine Collection Center (FCC)?

- A. The *Fine Collection Center (FCC)* is a clearing house that many Missouri counties and some cities use to collect fines on traffic tickets. Some counties allow the Fine Collection Center (FCC) to approve the **8-hour** Driver Improvement Program (DIP) or Defensive Driving Course (DDC). In such counties, if a driver pleads guilty to a moving violation by paying all fines and costs to the FCC and completes DIP/DDC within 60 days of the guilty plea, no points are assessed on the Missouri driver’s license; however the violation **will** continue to be listed on your driving record. To learn more about DIP/DDC programs and determine if the county where you got your citation allows this, go on the Internet to www.courts.mo.gov and click on Fine Collection Center under Quick Links.

Q. Why is the Defensive Driving Course 8 hours? Other states accept a 4 or 6-hour course?

- A. The Missouri Department of Revenue requires completion of an 8-hour defensive driving Course to avoid points assessed to your driver’s license.

Q. Is the Responsibility and Awareness Panel (RAP) the same as a Victim Impact Panel (VIP)?

- A. Yes! Our panel is for both alcohol and non-alcohol traffic offenders. The program focuses on seatbelt safety, distracted driving and the dangers of drinking and driving. It utilizes volunteers from the local and medical communities and law enforcement to share personal and professional experiences. The program is two hours in length and is only held once each month.

Q. What is Alive at 25?

- A. It is an interactive program for the high-risk driver ages 16-24. The class focuses on good decision-making and technology distractions such as cell phones and text-messaging.