





# Understanding the Role of the State Driver License Agency

May 2021





# Commercial Driving



# SDLA - State Driver Licensing Agencies



# What is the SDLA Role?

- License Individuals
  - Personal
  - Commercial
- Promote safe driving
  - Public safety
- Apply laws and sanctions
  - Withdrawal privileges
- Stakeholder partnership
  - Courts
  - Law enforcement
  - Business partner
    - FMCSA
    - Traffic safety commissions



# What is CDLIS and how does it work?

- CDLIS is the “Commercial Driver License Information System”
  - National central site for all commercial drivers
  - One driver license
  - One driver record
    - All convictions
    - All withdrawals
    - Reports to home of record
    - Pointer state
  - Verification to drive a commercial motor vehicle



# How does the SDLA handle out of state convictions?

- State of convictions report to
  - State of record
    - Where currently license or issued permit
    - Action occurred first
- Report electronically
- Paper process
- 10 day reporting requirement for conviction date
  - Weekends and holidays
  - Lose federal highway funds



# What happens when a state receives a conviction?

- Post to drive record
- Take withdrawal action
  - Disqualification
- Notify driver
- Due process
- Report to CDLIS and PDPS (Problem Driver Pointer System)





# What is a disqualification?

Cambridge English Dictionary

“The act of stopping someone from taking part in a competition or activity, usually because a rule has been broken or the state of having this happen to you”



# What causes a disqualification?

An administrative or criminal conviction set forth by federal and state law.

- Major offenses
  - 1 year to Lifetime
- Serious offenses
  - 60 day or 120 days
  - Concurrent for each withdrawal
- Out of service orders
  - 180 days to 5 years
- Railroad-highway grade crossing
  - 60 days to 1 year
- Imminent hazard
  - Directed by FMCSA
  - Up to 1 year



# Definition of Masking – Federal

## 49 CFR 384.226

- “The State must not mask, defer imposition of judgment, or allow an individual to enter into a diversion program that would prevent a CDL driver’s conviction, for any violation, in any type of motor vehicle, of a State or local traffic control law (other than parking, vehicle weight, or vehicle defect violations) from appearing on the driver’s record, whether the driver was convicted for an offense committed in the State where the driver is licensed or in another State.”



# How can a prosecutor help avoid “Masking”?

- Education
  - Federal and State laws that govern commercial drivers
  - State or local traffic laws effecting commercial privileges
- Understand what is masking
- No deferrals
- Use your resources
  - NDAA
  - FMCSA
  - CDL state representative
- Report timely – 10 day rule



# How does FMCSA know if the State is Masking?

- State Reporting
  - Personal
  - Commercial
- State Systems
  - Motor vehicles agencies
  - Courts
  - Law enforcement
- Federal
  - PDPS – Problem Driver Pointer System
  - CDLIS – Commercial Driver License Information System
  - SPEXS – State Pointer Exchange Services
- Monitor CDL driving record
- Yearly audits
- SDLA reporting masking violations



# Why Is This Important to YOU?



# Something for Jamie - 1994



# Seven Motorcyclist - 2019





# Contact information

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# Questions

