

VEHICLE IMPOUND



The vehicle will be impounded for 30 calendar days. The registered owner will have to pay the towing and the 30-day storage fee to get the vehicle back at the end of this period.

California Vehicle Code (CVC) Sections 14602.6 and 14607.6:

On January 1, 1995, new laws were enacted relating to unlicensed drivers. These laws, California Vehicle Code (CVC) Sections 14602.6 and 14607.6 authorize tow enforcement agencies to tow and impound vehicles for 30 days when driven by unlicensed, suspended, or revoked drivers. There is a possibility that the vehicle could be forfeited (taken from you by the state) if you have a prior conviction for driving while unlicensed, or with a suspended or revoked license.

Reasons for car impoundment:

Both 14602.6 and 14607.6 of the CVC give law enforcement officers the authority to impound your vehicle when it is being operated by an "unlicensed driver" (license not issued, suspended or revoked).

Your car is being impounded because you have committed a misdemeanor, not an infraction. By operating a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license you have committed a serious offense. In addition to the citation, the vehicle you are operating will be impounded and held for 30 days, or possibly forfeited.

Why 30 days?

The Legislature intended to provide safer roads for California's motoring public by removing the vehicles driven by unlicensed, suspended, or revoked drivers for 30 days. A serious violation of the law calls for a serious response. The 30-day impound begins on the calendar day the car is towed and will be released at the conclusion of the 30th day during normal business hours.

Under Section 14604 CVC:

The owner has a duty to assure the person driving their vehicle possesses a valid license; however, if you allow or permit anyone, including: your wife, son/daughter, friend or relative, to drive your vehicle and that person does not have a valid driver's license; you will be responsible for towing and storage fees. You will not have access to your vehicle for 30 days.

What happens to the car?

The car will be stored in a tow yard.

What happens when the car is stored a second time for being driven by an unlicensed, suspended, or revoked driver?

Your car may be forfeited. The law can be enforced at any time. Driving a motor vehicle on public highways in the State of California is a privilege and not a right. This privilege can be revoked, suspended or denied. A valid California driver's license designates and identifies the bearer as competent to operate a motor vehicle according to state regulations.

Driving without a license is a serious danger.

An unlicensed driver is a potential danger to all other motorists on the highway. He/she may not know the rules of the road or practice safe driving techniques. A driver who is unlicensed, or has a suspended or revoked driver's license has been ordered not to drive because of previous driving violations. Continuing to drive shows a flagrant disregard for the safety of other motorists.

VEHICLE RELEASE

THERE WILL BE A \$180.00 FEE TO HAVE YOUR VEHICLE RELEASED. THE FEE MUST BE PAID AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Prior to obtaining a release for a vehicle that has been towed by the Newman Police Department, *STATE LAW* requires the following:

- 1. Two (2) Valid Drivers must be present.**
- 2. The vehicle registration *MUST* be *CURRENT* with all registration fees paid.**

If you are the registered owner of the vehicle, and your driver's license is **NOT VALID**, you must bring two people with **VALID** driver's licenses to obtain your vehicle. You must present your drivers license and/or photo identification when obtaining a vehicle release. We can only release the vehicle to the registered owner or a representative of the owner, holding a notarized letter giving them permission to take possession of the vehicle, OR a letter from the Stanislaus County Jail with the registered owner's and witnessing Deputy's signatures.