QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REGARDING THE RESPONSIBLE DRIVER PROGRAM AND THE IGNITION INTERLOCK PROGRAM

**Responsible Driver Program**

**How much is the user fee for the Responsible Driver Program?**
$880.00 plus GST of $44.00, for a total of $924.00.

**I sent Stroh Health Care my cheque. Why are they waiting for 15 days before scheduling my assessment?**
RoadSafetyBC requires that when payments for services are paid by cheque, no services are rendered until the cheque has had time to "clear", which usually takes 15 days. There is no waiting period for payments by money order, or credit card.

**Why do I have to take it?**
The program is required when someone has been convicted of various alcohol or drug-related driving offences or when the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles has evidence of an alcohol or drug abuse problem.

**What program will I be required to take?**
After your assessment interview, you will be referred to either an 8-hour program or a 16-hour program. The 16-hour program is generally scheduled over a three-month period. A minimum number of participants are necessary for both the education and counselling programs, and they are scheduled at times and locations that meet the needs of the majority of program participants within your region.

**Nobody in court told me that I would have to do this. I should only have to do what the judge said.**
The Responsible Driver Program is a requirement under the *Motor Vehicle Act*, and is not a court-imposed requirement.

**I am prohibited for a lengthy period. When should I register for the Responsible Driver Program?**
If it is important that you obtain a driver's license as soon as you are eligible, you should register for the RDP as soon as you are able as the program can take up to 9 months to complete.

**Do all people required to take the Responsible Driver Program have to complete the program before being eligible for re-licensing?**
This is determined on a case-by-case basis by RoadSafetyBC. There are a variety of factors that determine whether a driver will be allowed to keep their driver's license or become re-licensed during the Responsible Driver Program. The driver is advised of this by RoadSafetyBC in his or her initial letter assigning them to the program.

**What if I don't attend the program?**
If you are currently unlicensed or prohibited from driving, you will be unable to re-apply for a driver's license until you complete the program. If you already have a license, it will be cancelled if you do not register within 30 days and complete the program within 9 months.
If drivers do not successfully complete the program, will they have to pay the $880.00 fee again? If a driver does not successfully complete the program, and he or she still wishes to be re-licensed, the driver may be required by RoadSafetyBC to re-take the entire program, or just a portion of the program. Any additional fees must be paid, depending on what is required.

Is there an exemption if a person has already completed a rehabilitation program? No. Privately operated rehabilitation programs that are not specified and provided by another Canadian jurisdiction will not be accepted as meeting the requirements for re-licensing in BC. However, if the driver has completed any other program, that information can be provided to the superintendent as additional evidence of his or her fitness to drive, or to Stroh Health Care when registering and paying for the Responsible Driver Program.

If the driver has completed an equivalent program provided by another Canadian jurisdiction, RoadSafetyBC will review the documents and make a decision regarding the fitness to drive and whether or not the Responsible Driver Program will still be required. The driver must provide a copy of the report outlining their participation in the program (where available), not just a certificate of completion (i.e. summary report or final report.)

What if someone can't afford it? Are there payment options? Can the fee be waived or is there financial assistance available for financial hardship? The Responsible Driver Program is a full user-pay program which means that the cost is completely paid for by the person who uses it. The RDP fee is intended to recover the cost of the contracted service provider to do the screening and assessment of drinking drivers, their costs for delivery of program sessions, as well as government's costs for administering the program. There are currently no payment options, fee waivers or financial assistance available, although clients can pay by credit card.

Why is the fee higher in BC than in other jurisdictions? BC does not subsidize any part of providing the RDP.

Are services available throughout the province? Services are delivered province-wide. However, a minimum number of participants are necessary for both the 8-hour and the 16-hour programs, and they are scheduled at times and locations that meet the needs of the majority of program participants within your region. Some clients will need to travel to larger communities to participate in RDP.

Are there any appeal procedures? If you have been referred to the Responsible Driver Program (RDP) you may seek reconsideration of that decision. For more information on seeking reconsideration of this decision visit the RoadSafetyBC website.

I don't have a problem with alcohol. Why am I referred to this program? If you have been found to be driving while under the influence of drugs, you may also be referred to the Responsible Driver Program as it also addresses drug abuse issues for those who drive while their ability is impaired by drugs.

I don't have any criminal convictions or 24-hr driving prohibitions. Why am I referred to the Responsible Driver Program? You can be referred to the Responsible Driver Program with other evidence of alcohol misuse or abuse while driving. It is not necessary to have alcohol-related convictions or offences on your driving record in order to be assigned to the Responsible Driver Program.
I have completed the Responsible Driver Program. What happens next? The Responsible Driver Program submits a report on your program participation and assessed risk of reoffending to RoadSafetyBC. RoadSafetyBC reviews these reports to determine whether you have successfully completed the Responsible Driver Program and whether or not you are deemed fit to drive.

When do I get my driver's license back? This depends on your individual circumstance. You may be found fit to drive, fit with ignition interlock, or not fit to drive. This is RoadSafetyBC's decision and it will be communicated in writing to you by RoadSafetyBC. The Responsible Driver Program does not receive these reports from RoadSafetyBC.

Who do I contact for information about the RDP? Stroh Health Care delivers the program throughout the province. They can be reached at 604-948-4912 in the Lower Mainland and toll free at 1-800-948-4912 in the rest of the province.

Where do I send the RDP Registration and Informed Consent Form if I want to pay by credit card? The correct fax number is 604-948-4913, which is on page two of the form. Do not send to RoadSafetyBC. Once the payment is processed, Stroh will advise RoadSafetyBC.

Ignition Interlock Program

What is an ignition interlock device and how does it work? An ignition interlock is an alcohol breath testing device connected to the ignition and power systems of the vehicle. It prevents the vehicle from being started if the driver has been drinking.

How much does it cost for Ignition Interlock? The program fee is $150.00 plus GST for a total of $157.50. The fee is non-refundable. There are also fees for the installation and use of the equipment. The basic fees are $150 for installation, $105 monitoring fee per month and $50 to remove the device at the end of the term. There are various other fees, depending on the circumstances which will be explained to the client by Guardian. All fees are paid directly to Guardian Interlock Systems. For more information on those fees, please call 1-866-474-6252.

What if someone can't afford it? Like other jurisdictions, there are no fee exemptions in cases of financial hardship. This is a full user pay program.

What happens if the device is not installed? If the client is unlicensed, he or she will be unable to obtain a driver's license until they provide proof of installation. If the client has a driver's license, it will be cancelled if the device is not installed within 30 days.

What if I drive multiple vehicles? Do I need interlock in all of them? The device must be installed in any vehicle you operate. You are responsible for installation and monitoring costs in each vehicle.

What if I don't have a vehicle? You don't have to own a vehicle; however, the device must be installed in any vehicle you operate.
Can an ignition interlock device be installed on a motor-cycle?
As part of a new pilot project, Guardian Interlock Services is now able to offer installation of interlock devices on motorcycles at their Richmond service centre location. To be included in this pilot project, the motorcycle must meet certain specifications. If you are interested in having an interlock device installed on a motorcycle, please contact Guardian Interlock Services directly to find out what technical specifications the motorcycle will need to meet to qualify for this pilot project. They can be reached at 1-866-474-6252.

I'm a professional driver. Does ignition interlock need to be installed in my work vehicle?
Yes. The device must be installed in any vehicle you operate. Your driver's license is only valid for vehicles with ignition interlock installed. You may want to discuss this with your employer to make arrangements for any work vehicles you are required to operate or to make other arrangements while you are restricted to driving ignition interlock equipped vehicles.

Can an individual participating in the interlock program get a restricted work license to drive vehicles for work purposes that do not have an ignition interlock device installed?
No. Vehicles used for work purposes must have the interlock device installed. If an employer has a fleet of vehicles, the individual should try to work out an arrangement with the employer. There are no exceptions.

What if the driver shares the vehicle with other people who do not have the ignition interlock restriction?
Anyone who drives a vehicle with an ignition interlock device installed must provide a valid breath sample in order for the vehicle to start. It is suggested that anyone who drives the vehicle attend at the time the device is installed so that they can be trained on how to use the device.

Can I drive a vehicle equipped with an interlock device outside of BC?
Yes, provided you continue to meet the scheduled service requirements that Guardian has explained to you.

The judge said I could do ignition interlock after serving three months of my court ordered prohibition instead of being prohibited from driving for a year (in BC or any other Canadian jurisdiction.) Why can't I?
There have been some instances where judges have authorized a reduced driving suspension under s. 259 of the Criminal Code. This is an authorization, not a court order. Sections 99 and 232 of the Motor Vehicle Act still apply and driving prohibitions are still in place if you have been convicted of a driving offence under the Criminal Code for a minimum of one year. There are no exceptions.

Who do I call for information about the ignition interlock device?
For further information on how the device works, making arrangements to get your vehicle outfitted with the ignition interlock device, or any other questions regarding Ignition Interlock, please call Guardian Interlock Systems toll free at 1-866-474-6252.