



CAN I DRIVE IN VICTORIA?

Do I need a Victorian licence?

If you have a licence from interstate or outside Australia, you are allowed to drive on this licence for **6 months** after arriving in Victoria or Australia. If your licence is not in English you must carry an English translation.

If you were driving on your interstate or overseas licence in Victoria on **29 October 2019**, you will have 6 months from that date to convert your licence to a Victorian licence.

After 6 months, you must apply for a Victorian licence. If you do not apply for a Victorian licence, you will no longer be allowed to drive on your interstate or international licence.

How do I apply for a Victorian licence?

There are four different types of car licences in Victoria:

- Learner's permit
- P1 probationary licence (red P plates)
- P2 probationary licence (green P plates)
- Full drivers' licence

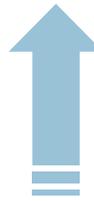
Each licence has different rules for driving; for example, some may have restrictions on the number of passengers in the car.

There are also separate licences for motorcycles and scooters.

Converting your licence to a Victorian licence will depend on your age, your country, and the type of licence you originally had. You may need to take a test about Victorian road law, as well as an on-road driving test.

If you want to apply for a Victorian licence, you should contact VicRoads for more information on 13 11 71.

ABOUT US



Deakin Student Legal Service provides free and confidential legal advice and information for all current Deakin University students.

Even if you are not sure if your problem is a legal one please visit our website. If we are unable to help, we can refer you to someone who can. Book your appointment at:

eclc.org.au/deakin



Eastern Community Legal Centre
Ph: (03) 1300 325 200

Burwood Campus



Barwon Community Legal Service
Ph: 1300 430 599

Waurin Ponds, Waterfront & Warrnambool Campuses

MORE PLACES FOR HELP & INFORMATION

VicRoads

Australia: 131 171
International: + 61 3 8391 3216
vicroads.vic.gov.au

Fines Victoria

Metro: (03) 9200 8111
Regional: 1300 369 819
fines.vic.gov.au

Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA)

(Disputes with Insurers)
1800 931 678
afca.org.au

Deakin Student Legal Service is a partnership between Deakin University Student Association (DUSA), Eastern Community Legal Centre and Barwon Community Legal Service.



Deakin Student Legal Service



Deakin Student Legal Service

**- CAR ACCIDENTS
- INSURANCE
- PROPERTY DAMAGE**

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

For free information, referrals and appointments visit:

eclc.org.au/deakin

DISCLAIMER: This information is intended as a guide only. It is not a substitute for legal advice.

Updated: April 2021

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT AN ACCIDENT?

Why should I get car insurance?

If you're at fault for a car accident, and have car insurance, this can cover the cost of repairs to your car and the car you damaged.

If you're at fault for a car accident and you don't have car insurance, you will need to cover the cost of repairs to your car and the car you damaged out of your own pocket!

In Victoria, your annual car registration fee ("TAC fee") covers you if someone is injured in an accident, but if you are at fault for an accident, it doesn't cover you for the cost of repairing your car or someone else's car.

Accidents can happen even if you're a good driver. Driving conditions, unforeseen road events, and sudden emergencies can all contribute to the cause of an accident.

But it's not my fault!

Disputes about who's at fault in a car accident are very common. Even if you don't think you have caused the accident, the other driver or their insurer might still want you to pay for the costs of fixing their car. Or you might want the other driver to pay for your repairs.

If you have car insurance, then the insurance company can sort out the cost of repairs, get money from the other party and handle any disputes about who is at fault.

If you don't have car insurance then you'll need to get lawyers involved. The other driver's insurance company may want to take you to court, or you might have to sue the other driver in court to cover your costs.

What should I do after an accident?

You are legally required to:

- ◆ Stop the vehicle.
- ◆ Assist in any way you can.
- ◆ Give your car registration details, name and address to the other driver.
- ◆ If you are not the owner of the car then, give the name and address of the owner of the car
- ◆ If someone is injured, or there is car damage, then you must also report the accident to the nearest police station.

If you don't do these things after an accident then the Police can charge you with an offence.

Tips

Take photos of the accident, any damage to your and the other party's car and the contact details of any **witnesses**.

If the Police attended the scene, you can also get a **traffic accident report**. This will be useful if you have to prove or defend who was responsible for the accident.

What is an infringement?

If the accident is reported to the police and they believe you have broken a driving law, they can give you an infringement "fine". You have various options to deal with a fine and should get legal advice if you're not sure what to do about it. Sometimes, these fines also carry demerit points. Only authorised agencies like the police can give you infringements. Infringements are legally separate from any property damage that occurred in the accident and are dealt with differently in the legal system.

I have been charged by the police!

If the police believe you caused the accident, they also have the power to charge you with a criminal offence, such as careless driving (a common offence resulting from car accidents). This means you are required to go to Court to hear your case. It is very important to get legal advice about this.

DICTIONARY

Third party person/Transport Accident Commission (TAC) fee

The compulsory insurance that is paid in part by your annual car registration fee. It covers you if a person is injured in a motor vehicle accident.

Third party insurance

Covers you for property damage caused to someone else's car.

Comprehensive insurance

Covers you for property damage caused to someone else's car AND your own car.

If your car has been damaged in an accident, you will need to submit an accident report to your insurer before you can get any money. This is called **making a claim**. Most car insurance companies will also want you to pay an **excess** when you make a claim.

An **excess** is an amount of money you will have to pay on the claim before your insurance policy begins operating. This means that the insurance company will only begin paying the costs of a claim once it goes past your excess amount.

The excess will vary depending on the type of insurance you choose and the **premium**. The **premium** is the amount of money you pay for the insurance.

