
What's the law? – Driving

Presenter's notes

How to use these notes

Topic: Driving with a valid licence, learner licences, car registration, seatbelt requirements, child restraints, paying fines.

Resources: *What's the law?* education kit 'Driving', which contains a photo story (on DVD), activity sheets and answer sheets.

These notes provide guidelines for a speaker's script and information on how to use these resources when presenting to a community group. The notes include a story summary, questions and answers, key messages, areas for further discussion and referral information.

Preparing to present

It may be useful to read the activity and answer sheets to prepare for your presentation – they may give you ideas for additional questions and activities for your group. It is also a good idea to look at the websites and referral information provided under 'Possible discussion points and referral information' below.

If you need assistance with presentation skills, engagement ideas or coordination support for the group you are preparing for you can contact cle@legalaid.wa.gov.au or (08) 9261 6500.

Introduce yourself and *What's the law?*

Before you begin the presentation, introduce yourself, your role and your organisation.

For example, if you work at Legal Aid WA:

- Legal Aid WA helps the community in many different ways if they have problems with the law. We provide legal education to newly-arrived communities about their rights and responsibilities.

Refer to the *What's the law?* education kit and its purpose by mentioning these key points:

- We see many different newly-arrived communities get into trouble with the law and often it is the same legal problems that arise. These legal troubles can be avoided if you know some simple information about the law and where to go to for help before your problem becomes serious.
- The photo stories in *What's the law?* have been made to help you learn about the law on fourteen different topics.

Begin with some introductory statements and general questions about the topic:

- Today we will show you a photo story on driving, as we know that many of you want to drive as soon as you can.

- There are many driving rules that we all must follow once we have a driver's licence. If we don't follow these rules, we can get fines and maybe even lose our licence.
- How many of you have a driver's licence?
- What type of licence do you have?
- How many of you are taking driving lessons to prepare for your driver's licence?

Summarise the photo story

- This story is about Ram, a husband and father of two children, who is new to Australia.
- Ram has bought a car and is driving with a licence from his home country.
- Ram is happy because driving helps him find a job and helps his wife get all the shopping home.
- Ram is stopped by a police officer when he is driving with his family in the car.
- The police officer fines Ram and Ram can no longer drive the car.

Ask questions

To strengthen engagement with the photo story and develop the group's legal literacy, ask key questions before showing the story. This will encourage the group to watch actively and think about key messages.

While you are watching the photo story, think about the next three questions:

Can Ram drive his car with an overseas licence?

What does Ram need to do before he can drive his car?

How should Ram's children travel in the car?

Show the photo story



Answer the questions

Ask the same key questions after you show the story and allow for discussion to tease out the right answers.

Can Ram drive his car with an overseas licence?

- No, there are rules about driving with an overseas licence in Western Australia.
- The rules cover how long you may be able to drive on a licence from other countries. These rules can depend on whether you hold a temporary or permanent visa.
- Contact the **Department of Transport** on **13 11 56** to find out if you can drive with an overseas licence.
- If you drive without a driver's licence you may get a fine or have to go to court. You may even lose your licence.
- You cannot drive on your L plates without a fully licensed driver instructing you.

What does Ram need to do before he can drive his car?

- If you are driving anywhere in Western Australia, you must pay a registration fee to the Department of Transport.

How should Ram's children travel in the car?

- They are not wearing seatbelts. This is not safe for the children. You can be fined for not wearing seatbelts, both adults and children.
- Children under seven should be in child seats.
- Contact the **Department of Transport** on **13 11 56** to find out more.

Emphasise key messages

- There are many driving laws. It is important to be aware of them if you want to drive.
- If you break driving laws you can be fined and may have to go to court.
- For traffic offences that lead to a fine as being the harshest penalty, Legal Aid WA will probably refer you to information to assist you to deal with the matter. If you find it difficult to speak in English and need an interpreter, you may be able to get assistance in court from a Legal Aid WA duty lawyer.

Call the **Department of Transport** on **13 11 56** for any questions about overseas licences, registering your car or child restraints. If you require an interpreter, please phone **13 11 56** and request an interpreter for your language.

Further questions and discussion

- Does anyone have any questions?

You are not expected to be a lawyer to use this resource. Many teachers and community workers use this resource successfully. If a participant raises personal legal issues, you can provide referral information. If you are not a lawyer, legal assessment or advice should be referred to the **Legal Aid WA Infoline** on **1300 650 579** or the closest community legal centre (<http://www.communitylaw.net/>) or Legal Aid WA office.

Possible discussion points and referral information

Child restraint information

- Department of Transport WA: <http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/seats-and-seatbelts.asp>

Driving lessons

- Your local Migrant Resource Centre, for example, **Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre** on **(08) 9345 5755**, may be able to refer you to some driving schools in your area.

Buying a car

- You can view Legal Aid WA's **My Car** which has legal information about buying a car in WA: <http://mycar.legalaid.wa.gov.au>

Debt from fines and vehicle purchase finance

You can show the 'Buying a car' or 'Car accident' photo story if time permits.

- Financial counselling may be able to assist with debt and finance issues. Search for a nearby financial counsellor: <https://www.financialcounsellors.org/>. You can talk to a financial counsellor on the phone from anywhere in Australia by ringing **1800 007 007**.
- Check if your local community legal centre offers financial counselling services: <http://www.communitylaw.net/>

Insurance issues or complaints

You can show the 'Buying a car' or 'Car accident' photo story if time permits.

- Choosing a car that meets your needs: <https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/life-events-and-you/life-events/buying-a-car>
- Car insurance information: <https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/insurance/car-insurance>
- Factsheet on insurance in Arabic, Assyrian, Burmese, Chin Hakka, Dari, Dinka, Farsi, Hazaragi, Karen, Kirundi, Nepalese, Nuer, Sudanese Arabic, Swahili, Tamil: <https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/tools-and-resources/publications>
- If you have a complaint or problem with the service provided by a financial organisation, you can complain to the **Australian Financial Complaints Authority** on **1800 931 678** <https://www.afca.org.au>

Vehicle licensing (registration)

- **Department of Transport: 13 11 56**
- You can license your vehicle (register) your car for 3, 6, or 12 months.
- The cost of licensing your vehicle is reduced if you have a Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card: <http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/concessions.asp>
- Contact the Department of Transport for further information: <http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/licensing/license-my-vehicle-registration.asp>

Roadside assistance – RAC

- Royal Automobile Club (RAC) offers roadside assistance that can help if your vehicle breaks down. This service is not free: http://rac.com.au/?_afr.ts=1440748554018

Traffic offence, driving rules, fines – what are my rights and responsibilities?

- **Legal Aid WA** has information and publications about these issues on our website under Resources: <https://www.legalaid.wa.gov.au>
- Call Legal Aid WA or your community legal centre (<http://www.communitylaw.net/>) if you have legal problems or have to go to court.

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