

PA TITLE 75 PENNSYLVANIA VEHICLE CODE

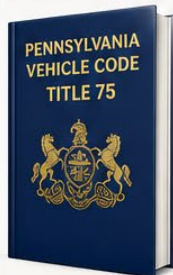
★ FOUNDATIONS & DEFINITIONS ★

THE BIG PICTURE. THE BASICS. THE CODE.

TITLE 75 = RULES OF THE ROAD

Promoting safety, protecting lives, and ensuring the orderly movement of people and property.

1 WHAT IS TITLE 75?



The Pennsylvania Vehicle Code (Title 75) is the law that governs the operation of vehicles and traffic on highways in this Commonwealth.

- ✓ Adopted to promote public safety
- ✓ Establish uniform traffic rules
- ✓ Define offenses and penalties
- ✓ Empower law enforcement and courts
- ✓ Protect all who use the roadways

2 CHAPTER ROADMAP




- CH 15 DRIVER LICENSING**
Licenses, permits, suspensions, restorations
- CH 17 VEHICLE REGISTRATION**
Registration, titles, plates
- CH 33 REGISTRATION, INSPECTION & EQUIPMENT**
Inspections, equipment requirements
- CH 37 RULES OF THE ROAD**
General rules for all drivers
- CH 38 DUI: ALCOHOL AND DRUGS**
Driving under the influence
- CH 75 OFFENSES & PENALTIES**
Summary and criminal penalties

3 KEY TERMS TO KNOW

- Jurisdiction** – The power of a court to hear and decide a case.
- Venue** – The specific county or district where a case is heard.
- Summary Offense** – A violation of Title 75 heard by a Magisterial District Judge (MDJ).
- Criminal Offense** – A more serious offense that may be heard in the Court of Common Pleas and can result in jail time.
- Defendant** – The person charged with an offense.
- Commonwealth** – The plaintiff in all cases. The case is brought “Commonwealth of PA v. Defendant.”

4 JURISDICTION vs VENUE




JURISDICTION

The power of the court to hear and decide the type of case.

If the court lacks jurisdiction, it has **NO** authority to act.

VS



VENUE

The correct geographic location where the case should be heard.

If venue is wrong, the case can still proceed but may be moved.

★ **KEY CONCEPT:** Jurisdiction = Power to hear the case. Venue = Place to hear the case.

5 SUMMARY vs CRIMINAL AT A GLANCE

SUMMARY (MDJ COURT)	VS	CRIMINAL (COMMON PLEAS COURT)
✓ Usually minor traffic violations		✓ More serious offenses
✓ No criminal record		✓ Criminal record possible
✓ Fine only (no jail time)		✓ Fines + jail possible
✓ Right to a trial in MDJ Court		✓ Right to a jury trial
✓ Citations are common		✓ Complaints are common

6 HOW TITLE 75 WORKS TOGETHER

These chapters work together to create a safe, lawful roadway system for everyone.



SO WE ALL GET HOME SAFELY

★ HIGH-YIELD REMEMBER

- TITLE 75 is the law.
- Courts have jurisdiction.
- Cases have venue.

KEY LEGEND

- ★ FREQUENTLY TESTED
- ▲ IMPORTANT
- ◆ KEY CONCEPT
- ✓ MUST KNOW

PA TITLE 75 PENNSYLVANIA VEHICLE CODE

THE BIG THREE: LICENSE ★ REGISTRATION ★ INSURANCE
WHO MAY DRIVE. WHAT THEY DRIVE. HOW THEY'RE PROTECTED. ★



1 DRIVER LICENSING (CHAPTER 15)

Pennsylvania DRIVER'S LICENSE NOT FOR OTHER PURPOSES

DLN: 31 234 567 DUPS: 00
 DOB: 01/01/1995
 EXP: 01/01/2028 ISS: 01/01/2024

CLASS: C
 END: NONE
 RESTR: NONE

John Sample
 JOHN SAMPLE
 123 MAIN STREET
 HARRISBURG, PA 17101
 SEX: M EYES: BRO
 HGT: 5'-10"
 DD: 1234567890123
 456789012345

DL

MDJ MUST KNOW:

- ✓ Valid license required to drive.
- ✓ Correct class/endorsements for the vehicle.
- ✓ License may be suspended, revoked, or canceled.
- ✓ Driving while suspended/revoked is a criminal offense.

2 VEHICLE REGISTRATION (CHAPTER 17)

PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

PLATE NUMBER: **ABC • 1234** TITLE NUMBER: 123456789012345

MAKE: TOYOTA YEAR: 2022 BODY TYPE: 4D
 VIN: 1HGCM82633A004352

REGISTERED OWNER:
JOHN SAMPLE
 123 MAIN STREET
 HARRISBURG, PA 17101

PA

MDJ MUST KNOW:

- ✓ Registration (or valid sticker) must be displayed.
- ✓ Plates belong to the vehicle, not the owner.
- ✓ Expired plates = summary offense.
- ✓ Required for all motor vehicles.

3 FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY / INSURANCE (CHAPTER 17)

PENNSYLVANIA INSURANCE IDENTIFICATION CARD

INSURER: SAFE AUTO INSURANCE COMPANY

POLICY NUMBER: SAS123456789

EFFECTIVE DATE: 01/01/2024 EXPIRATION DATE: 01/01/2025

INSURED:
JOHN SAMPLE
 123 MAIN STREET
 HARRISBURG, PA 17101

MDJ MUST KNOW:

- ✓ Drivers must maintain minimum insurance.
- ✓ Proof of insurance required when requested.
- ✓ No insurance / lapse = summary offense.
- ✓ No insurance + accident = criminal offense.

4 TRAFFIC STOPS: LAW, REASON, & PROCEDURE

WHEN A STOP IS LEGAL

An officer may stop a vehicle if there is a:

- ✓ Traffic violation
- ✓ Equipment violation
- ✓ Reasonable suspicion of criminal activity

OFFICER'S OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Protect public & officer safety
- ✓ Determine identity
- ✓ Check license, registration, and insurance
- ✓ Issue citation or warning
- ✓ Investigate criminal activity

STOP PROCEDURE

- 1 Initiate the stop safely
- 2 Approach & greet
- 3 Explain the reason
- 4 Ask for documents
- 5 Return or issue citation

ILLEGAL STOPS: LAW LEAD TO:

EVIDENCE EXCLUDED CASE DISMISSED CREDIBILITY ISSUES NO JURISDICTION

5 VEHICLE EQUIPMENT (CHAPTER 33)

- Brakes
- Lights
- Tires
- Windshield
- Mirrors
- Exhaust
- Horn

MDJ MUST KNOW:

- ✓ Vehicles must be safe to operate.
- ✓ Equipment violations are summary offenses.
- ✓ Defective equipment can also support a criminal charge if it creates a hazard.

6 COMMON TRAFFIC DOCUMENTS

CITATION

Alleges a violation of Title 75. Starts the case.

MDJ MUST KNOW: Citation must be properly completed and signed.

WARNING

Not an admission of guilt. Officer's discretion.

MDJ MUST KNOW: No court appearance required unless directed.

NON-TRAFFIC CITATION (NTC)

Used for many non-traffic violations.

MDJ MUST KNOW: Can involve other codes beyond Title 75.

7 SUSPENSIONS & RESTRICTIONS

SUSPENDED

COMMON REASONS:

- ✗ DUI / High BAC
- ✗ Accumulation of points
- ✗ Failure to pay fines
- ✗ No insurance
- ✗ Refusal of chemical test
- ✗ Habitual traffic offenses

MDJ TIP

Always check driving history when it impacts jurisdiction or charges.

8 POINTS SYSTEM (CHAPTER 15)

POINTS

POINT TOTAL CONSEQUENCES

3 - 5 pts	Warning Letter
6 - 11 pts	Possible Suspension
12 - 15 pts	Mandatory Suspension
15+ pts	Longer Suspension

POINTS STAY 2 YEARS

★ HIGH-YIELD REMEMBER!

VALID LICENSE

Right class. Right status. Right you.

REGISTERED VEHICLE

Proper plates. Proper display.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Insurance in force. Proof when requested.

LEGAL STOP

Reason required. Safety first. Procedure matters.

KEY LEGEND

- ★ FREQUENTLY TESTED
- ⚠ IMPORTANT
- ◆ KEY CONCEPT
- ✓ MUST KNOW

1 SUMMARY vs CRIMINAL: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

SUMMARY (MDJ COURT)	CRIMINAL (COMMON PLEAS COURT)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Usually minor traffic violations ✓ No criminal record ✓ Fine only (no jail time) ✓ Right to a trial in MDJ Court ✓ Citations are common 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ More serious offenses ✓ Criminal record possible ✓ Fines + jail possible ✓ Right to a jury trial ✓ Complaints are common

SUMMARY ≠ CRIMINAL

DIFFERENT PROCESS. DIFFERENT PENALTIES. DIFFERENT COURT.

2 BURDEN OF PROOF

PRESUMED INNOCENT
Until Proven Guilty

BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT

<p>IN TRAFFIC CASES: The Commonwealth has the burden of proof.</p>	<p>THE COMMONWEALTH MUST PROVE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Each element of the offense ✓ Beyond a reasonable doubt ✓ Through credible evidence
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★ **KEY CONCEPT:** The Commonwealth must prove the case. You do not have to prove your innocence.

3 COMMON TRAFFIC OFFENSES (SUMMARY)

Speeding	Stop Sign Violation	Red Light Violation	Failure to Yield	Following Too Closely
Use of Handheld Device	Seat Belt Violation	Improper Headlights	Registration / Plate Violations	Insurance Violations

★ **KNOW THE VIOLATIONS. AVOID THE CITATIONS.**

4 SUMMARY TRIAL PROCESS (MDJ)

- 1 **CITATION ISSUED**
Officer observes violation and issues citation.
- 2 **PLEA / ARRAIGNMENT**
You enter plea (Guilty, Not Guilty, or Nolo Contendere).
- 3 **SUMMARY TRIAL**
Both sides present evidence. MDJ makes a decision.
- 4 **VERDICT**
Guilty or Not Guilty Based on the evidence.
- 5 **SENTENCE**
Fine, costs, and/or points if guilty.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL. USE IT WISELY.

5 COMMON TRAFFIC CASE EVIDENCE

Citation	Officer Testimony	Dashcam Video	Scene Photos	Radar / LIDAR	Vehicle Condition
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✓ **EVIDENCE MUST BE CREDIBLE, RELEVANT, AND LEGAL.**

6 MDJ AUTHORITY IN TRAFFIC CASES

Hears and decides summary traffic cases.
Rules on admissibility of evidence.
Determines witness credibility.
Finds facts and applies the law.
Imposes sentence if defendant is guilty.

MDJs CAN IMPOSE:

- ✓ Fines
- ✓ Costs
- ✓ Points
- ✓ License Suspension (where authorized)

MDJs HAVE FULL AUTHORITY in summary traffic cases.

7 FREQUENTLY TESTED CONCEPTS ★

Speeding is the most common citation.	Commonwealth has the burden of proof.	Summary cases are not criminal cases.	You have the right to a trial in MDJ Court.	Evidence must be credible and relevant.	Seat belts and child safety laws are frequently enforced.
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LEGEND: ★ FREQUENTLY TESTED ⚠ IMPORTANT ◆ KEY CONCEPT ✓ MUST KNOW

★ HIGH-YIELD REMEMBER ★

- DUI = CHAPTER 38**
- BURDEN OF PROOF = COMMONWEALTH**
- SUMMARY ≠ CRIMINAL**
- LICENSE + REGISTRATION + INSURANCE**

MASTER THE BASICS. KNOW THE CODE. STAY SAFE.

PA TITLE 75 DUI & CHAPTER 38

DUI IS CHAPTER 38

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS

IMPAIRMENT IS THE ISSUE. NOT THE SUBSTANCE.

1 DUI OVERVIEW

A person commits DUI if they drive, operate or are in actual physical control of a vehicle while:

<p>ALCOHOL</p> <p>BAC of 0.08% or higher</p>	<p>PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS</p> <p>Impaired to a degree that renders the person incapable of safe driving</p>	<p>MARIJUANA</p> <p>Impaired to a degree that renders the person incapable of safe driving</p>	<p>ILLEGAL DRUGS</p> <p>Impaired to a degree that renders the person incapable of safe driving</p>
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➔ ANY ALCOHOL OR DRUG THAT IMPAIRS YOUR ABILITY TO DRIVE SAFELY.

2 IMPLIED CONSENT (CHAPTER 38)

IMPLIED CONSENT

By driving in Pennsylvania, a driver is deemed to consent to chemical testing (breath, blood, or urine) when lawfully requested by law enforcement.



REFUSAL ≠ NO CONSEQUENCES

Refusal or failure to submit to testing will result in:

- Automatic license suspension
- Use as evidence in court
- Additional penalties

3 CHEMICAL TESTING

BREATH
Most common. Measures BAC.

BLOOD
Measures BAC and detects drugs.

URINE
Used to detect drugs.

TESTING IS USED TO:

- ✓ Determine BAC (alcohol)
- ✓ Detect the presence of drugs
- ✓ Support impairment
- ✓ Provide evidence in court

★ IMPORTANT
You can be charged with DUI even if your BAC is below 0.08% if you are impaired.

4 BAC LEVELS & PENALTIES (ALCOHOL)

0.16% OR HIGHER → **HIGHEST PENALTIES**

- Mandatory jail
- Longer license suspension
- Higher fines
- Ignition interlock required

0.10% TO 0.159% → **ENHANCED PENALTIES**

- Mandatory jail (1st offense)
- License suspension
- Fines
- Ignition interlock

0.08% TO 0.099% → **LEGAL LIMIT**

- DUI offense
- Fines
- License suspension
- Possible jail

BELOW 0.08% → **NOT A PER SE DUI**
But you can still be charged if impaired.

PENALTIES INCREASE WITH:

- Higher BAC
- Prior DUI offenses
- Refusal of testing
- Accidents or injuries
- Children in the vehicle

★ REMEMBER
Even one DUI can change your life. Plan ahead. Drive sober.

5 REFUSAL CONSEQUENCES

SUSPENDED

AUTOMATIC LICENSE SUSPENSION

MINIMUM PENALTIES (1st refusal):

	NO PRIOR REFUSALS	WITH PRIOR REFUSALS
1st Refusal	12 months	18 months
2nd Refusal	18 months	18 months
3rd+ Refusal	18 months	18 months

Hardship License may be available after 30 days.

ADDITIONAL IMPACTS

- Refusal is used as evidence in court.
- Higher fines and costs.
- Insurance rates increase.

6 DUI PENALTIES (1ST OFFENSE OVERVIEW)

ADDITIONAL CONSEQUENCES

- Probation
- Treatment
- Community Service
- SR-22 Insurance
- Long-term impact

IGNITION INTERLOCK 12 months

LICENSE SUSPENSION 12 months

JAIL \$300 - \$5,000

FINES

★ PENALTIES GET TOUGHER WITH EACH ADDITIONAL OFFENSE.

★ HIGH-YIELD REMEMBER ★

<p>DUI = CHAPTER 38</p> <p>Know the chapter. Know the law.</p>	<p>IMPLIED CONSENT APPLIES</p> <p>By driving, you are deemed to consent.</p>	<p>REFUSAL HAS CONSEQUENCES</p> <p>Suspension, evidence, and penalties.</p>	<p>IMPAIRMENT IS THE ISSUE</p> <p>Not just alcohol. Drugs can impair too.</p>	<p>PLAN AHEAD. DRIVE SOBER.</p> <p>Your life. Your license. Your future.</p>
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PA TITLE 75 PENNSYLVANIA VEHICLE CODE

★ HIGH-IMPACT TRAFFIC LAWS ★ THE BASICS THAT KEEP OUR ROADS SAFE.



1 TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES (CHAPTER 33)

STOP	YIELD	TRAFFIC SIGNAL	SCHOOL ZONE	NO PASSING ZONE
Come to a complete stop. Proceed when it is safe.	Slow down and yield the right-of-way.	Obey the lights. Treat red as a stop sign.	Reduce speed. Watch for children.	Do not pass when signage or markings prohibit.

★ **KEY CONCEPT:** These devices control traffic and are enforceable by law.

2 SPEEDING (CHAPTER 33)

SPEED KILLS. SLOW DOWN. SAVE LIVES.

MOST COMMON CITATION

SPEED LIMIT 55

SPEED LIMITS ARE MAXIMUMS. NOT TARGETS.

★ Drive at a safe speed for conditions. Obey posted limits.

3 SEAT BELTS & CHILD RESTRAINTS (CHAPTER 45)

SEAT BELTS: REQUIRED

Buckled up. Every trip. Every seat.

- Driver and all passengers must wear a seat belt.
- Violations are summary offenses.

★ **FACT:** Seat belts reduce the risk of death by about 45%.

CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS: REQUIRED

UNDER 2 YEARS (Under 30 lbs.)	2 TO 4 YEARS (30 to 40 lbs.)	4 TO 8 YEARS (40 to 80 lbs.)	8 YEARS & OLDER (Over 80 lbs.)
Rear-facing child restraint system.	Forward-facing child restraint system.	Booster seat until 8 years old OR 80 lbs.	Seat belt until 13 years old.

★ **IMPORTANT**

Child passengers are our most vulnerable. The right seat for their age saves lives.

Improper restraint use can lead to serious injury, increased fines, and points.

4 REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS (CHAPTER 17)

- ✓ Vehicles must be registered with PennDOT.
- ✓ Display valid registration plate(s).
- ✓ Keep registration card in the vehicle.
- ✓ Expired registration = summary offense.
- ✓ Plates belong to the vehicle, not the owner.

★ **KEY CONCEPT:** Valid registration proves the vehicle is approved for use on public roadways.

5 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS (CHAPTER 17)

- ✓ Maintain minimum financial responsibility.
- ✓ Proof of insurance must be carried.
- ✓ Show proof when requested by police.
- ✓ No insurance + accident = criminal offense.
- ✓ Policies must be active and valid.

★ **KEY CONCEPT:** Insurance protects you, others, and helps meet legal responsibility.

6 MOST COMMON VIOLATIONS

MOST WANTED

- 1 SPEEDING**
(Too fast for conditions or over the limit)
- 2 STOP SIGN VIOLATION**
(Failure to come to a complete stop)
- 3 RED LIGHT VIOLATION**
(Entering intersection on red)
- 4 SEAT BELT VIOLATION**
(Not wearing a seat belt)
- 5 FAILURE TO YIELD**
(Failure to yield right-of-way)

★

AVOID A TICKET. MAKE SMART CHOICES.

OBEY THE LAW. PROTECT LIVES.

7 ADDITIONAL KEY REMINDERS

- Adjust your speed for weather, traffic, and road conditions.
- Distracted driving puts everyone at risk.
- Drinking or drug use and driving don't mix. Plan ahead.
- Use headlights when required. See and be seen.

★ **HIGH-YIELD TAKEAWAYS**

TITLE 75 IS THE LAW.

KNOW THE BIG THREE: LICENSE, REGISTRATION, INSURANCE.

OBEY TRAFFIC LAWS AND SIGNS.

BUCKLE UP. PROTECT EVERYONE.

SAFE DRIVING SAVES LIVES AND MONEY.

KEY LEGEND

- ★ FREQUENTLY TESTED
- ▲ IMPORTANT
- ◆ KEY CONCEPT
- ✓ MUST KNOW