

GENERAL ORDER 61.3.6

DWS/DWR

GENERAL ORDER CROSS-REFERENCE: None.

SUMMARY

Establishes procedures for handling motorists driving with a suspended or revoked license.

DISCUSSION

Officers engaged in traffic enforcement come in contact with motorists driving with suspended or revoked licenses.

POLICY

I

Driving while suspended is divided into three categories: violation, misdemeanor and felony. In all cases of driving while suspended/revoked discussed below, if a person with a valid license is present, agrees to take responsibility for the vehicle and there is no objection from the owner, the vehicle shall not be impounded.

Driving while suspended (violation) motorists shall be issued a uniform traffic citation and verbally advised not to drive.

Motorists driving with a suspended (misdemeanor or felony) license can be resolved one of two ways. The officer may issue the violator a traffic citation or arrest the violator and lodge the person in jail. . The involved vehicle shall be impounded if it is not lawfully parked and/or creates a hazard. If impounded, the guidelines set forth in G.O. 61.7.3 shall be followed. If exceptional circumstances do exist, an officer may use his/her discretion in regards to the impoundment. However, if no impoundment takes place, the reasons shall be documented on the DWS citation and report. Department members shall not operate the violator's vehicle.

II

Officers shall take reasonable steps to assure the violator will not drive if given a citation and the vehicle is not impounded. If impounded, the officer is responsible for securing any valuable items in the violator's vehicle as well as securing the vehicle. This may include

removing valuables from the vehicle and lodging them at the Springfield Police Department property room. In all cases, if impounded, valuables within a vehicle shall be inventoried. The officer must have supervisor approval to operate the violator's vehicle. When a decision to impound the vehicle is made, measures shall be taken to reasonably insure the safety of all passengers.

Richard L. Lewis
Chief of Police