



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Traffic Amnesty Program Offers Hope to Thousands of Californians

(Woodland, CA) – Long seen as a rite of passage for teenagers, a driver’s license represents far more than that to most Californians. A valid driver’s license is a vital link to employment, independence and long-term individual and family stability. For those with unpaid traffic and non-traffic infraction tickets, however, insurmountable court fines have led to the loss of the privilege to drive, leaving little realistic hope of ever climbing out of the abyss.

Thanks to a new law, hope has been restored. October 1, 2015, marked the kick-off of Governor Jerry Brown’s statewide traffic amnesty program. The purpose of the traffic amnesty program is to provide relief in the form of reduced fines and release of associated driver’s license suspensions to qualified individuals who have found themselves in default on court-ordered debt. Any persons eligible to have a driver’s license, including undocumented individuals eligible under AB 60, are entitled to participate in the program if threshold eligibility requirements are met.

General eligibility requirements for the traffic amnesty program in Yolo County include: the initial due date for payment on the debt must have been on or before January 1, 2013; no payments have been made after September 30, 2015; no restitution is owed to a victim on any case within Yolo County; and no non-traffic misdemeanor or felony warrants may be outstanding within Yolo County.

Qualified persons may expect outstanding fines and bail to be reduced by either 50% or 80% and to set up a reasonable payment plan for the remaining debt. For those that do not qualify for debt reduction, a payment plan for outstanding debt may still be developed, resulting in the immediate release of a driver’s license hold.

“Every day I see Yolo County residents struggle to overcome barriers like lack of transportation and the often related barrier of unemployment,” said Yolo County Public Defender Tracie Olson. “It’s not that as drivers they pose a public safety risk, it’s just that they can’t afford to pay off their court ordered debt. I hope everyone who is eligible will take advantage of this opportunity.”

The program costs \$50, excluding the Department of Motor Vehicles fee of \$55 to reinstate a driver’s license.

Participation forms may be found on the Yolo County Superior Court website (www.yolo.courts.ca.gov/) and will be processed by the Court’s Traffic Division located at 1000 Main Street in Woodland.

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