

## **Requesting your own driving record**

### **Chief Scott A. McElroy**

One of the most common requests law enforcements receives is from someone that wants a copy of his/her driving record.

The Federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act passed by Congress in 1994 and ruled constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in January of 2000 restricts access to Division of Motor Vehicle (DMV) records. The act is intended to protect the privacy of personal information relating to driver licenses and instruction permits, vehicle titles and registrations and identification cards issued by motor vehicle departments.

The access law enforcement has plays an important role in the day to day operations of any police agency. This access provides for limited use related to the necessary functions of a police agency and does not allow for the release of personal driving records to requesters. Therefore, law enforcement will not provide this information upon request.

Your motor vehicle driving abstract or record contains your driving history for a specific period of time. Most entries remain on your record for 5 years, except for serious offenses or alcohol related convictions, which remain on your record for 55 years.

Although law enforcement is not authorized to provide you a copy of your driving record or abstract, you can however, request a copy of your own driver record over the phone or by mail by contacting the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

To order by phone, call (608) 261-2566. The automated system is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is very important that you listen to the complete message and follow the instructions given, or the transaction will not be completed and your request will not go through.

There is a fee for this service. The fee schedule is available at:

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/vehicles/veh-fees.htm#record>

To request your driving record by mail, you must complete a Vehicle/Driver Record Information Request Form MV2896 and mail it with the appropriate fee to:

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 7995  
Madison, WI 53707-7995

This form is available at:

<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/forms/mv2896.pdf>

This form is also available as a link from off of the Evansville police department website at:

<http://www.ci.evansville.wi.gov/city/services/police.html>

You can also check the current status of your driver license online or by calling (608) 264-7133 (for a recorded message, 24 hours a day

If you have any questions about the procedure to obtain your driving record, the following resources are available:

- E-mail: [driverrecords.dmv@dot.state.wi.us](mailto:driverrecords.dmv@dot.state.wi.us)
- Call: (608) 266-2353
- Visit:  
<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/points/abstract.htm>

You can also contact the Evansville Police Department at 882-2299 and/or visit: <http://www.ci.evansville.wi.gov/city/services/police.html>

Source: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/drivers/points/abstract.htm>