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## CHECKLIST: HOW TO PREPARE FOR YOUR COURT DATE IF YOU'VE BEEN **CHARGED WITH RECKLESS DRIVING IN VIRGINIA**

Have you been charged with **reckless driving in Virginia**? You can start preparing for your case today.

This Checklist is designed to help people who have been charged with reckless driving in Virginia who are unsure of what to do next.

## **BE PROACTIVE!**

- □ **Learn about the charge**. Reckless Driving is a serious offense in Virginia, because it is a Class 1 misdemeanor. Under Virginia Code Section 46.2-862, that means you could face up to one (1) year in jail and/or a \$2,500 fine.
- □ **Put your court date and time on the calendar**. You must appear in court.
- □ **Hire an attorney**. At the very least, consult with an attorney. This charge carries possible jail time, and because it could impact your record the same way a DWI can, you should hire an attorney. Your attorney can provide much needed assistance, negotiations, preparation, and peace of mind.
- □ Take a good driving class before going to court.
- □ Print the certificate you earned from your good driving class and bring it to court. Also bring copies for your defense attorney and the prosecutor.
- **Obtain and bring your driving record to court**. This includes any driving record you have in any state and/or the District of Columbia. You can order these records through your state's motor vehicle website.
- Don't make the situation worse. It may seem obvious, but don't break any other rules of the road before you go to court.



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This Checklist was developed by Virginia Vile Tehrani, a former Commonwealth's Attorney in Virginia and a current Associate of Anderson & Quinn, LLC, practicing civil and criminal defense in Maryland, Virginia, and DC.

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