

ODL Scenarios

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Resources

Texas Justice Court Training Center:
www.tjctc.org

- Administrative Proceedings Deskbook Ch. 9
- Charts, self-paced modules, webinars, legal board, etc.

Texas Constitution and Statutes:
<https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/>

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Spot the Mistakes!

Thea has come to your court to request an ODL. She says she can't afford the filing fee, so the clerk informs her that a Statement of Inability can only be used to waive court costs in a civil case, but to come back once she has the fee. Thea comes back a few days later, submits all the paperwork, and pays the filing fee.

Her application and driving record show that her license was suspended due to a DWI conviction, that she has valid insurance, and that she has an essential need to drive. The judge grants the request and enters orders requiring an Ignition Interlock Device (IID) and travel limits.

The clerk tells Thea that a certified copy of her petition and order must be sent to DPS and she has the choice of giving money for postage to the court for them to send them, or she can send them herself.

After a couple days, Thea realizes she doesn't want to get an IID, so she appeals the ODL case. The court sends the case up to county court.

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Scenario #1

A defendant fails to satisfy a criminal judgment and you place them in Omni. When their license expires and they are unable to renew it, they file an application for an ODL in your court.

- Assuming the applicant is otherwise eligible and shows an essential need to drive, could the court issue an order granting an ODL?

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Scenario #2

An applicant's license was suspended due to a Driving While License Invalid (DWLI) conviction in the county where your court is located. They have shown an essential need to drive and proof of financial responsibility.

- Are they eligible for an ODL? If so, can your court grant it?

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Scenario #3

An applicant files an ODL in your court. Their license was suspended due to a DWI conviction. They have provided a certified abstract of their complete driving record and shown an essential need to drive and proof of financial responsibility.

- What should the court do?

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Scenario #4

The court holds a hearing on an application for an ODL and sends a notice to the prosecutor. The prosecutor attends and provides evidence that the defendant has had numerous traffic offenses and states that they do not support the granting of the ODL. The applicant is otherwise eligible and has demonstrated an essential need to drive and evidence of financial responsibility.

1. Should the court grant or deny the application?
2. What if no prosecutor attended, but the court had the same information from the applicant's driving record?

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Scenario #5

Your court has entered an order granting an ODL for a person whose license was suspended due to refusing a breath test during a DWI stop. There is a history of alcohol related offenses on their driving record. They currently have a bond condition requiring an Ignition Interlock Device (IID) on any vehicle that they drive, but they say they're pretty sure the magistrate is going to remove the condition because they can't afford the IID.

- Do you include the IID requirement in your ODL order?

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Scenario #6

Your court has entered an order granting an ODL for a person whose license was suspended due to having over a .08 blood alcohol content during a DWI stop. It is the first time they have been arrested for a DWI and there is no bond condition or other order currently in place restricting them to only drive vehicles equipped with an IID.

- What must and what may be included in the ODL order?

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Scenario #7

Your court has entered an order granting an ODL for a person whose license was suspended due to an unpaid civil judgment against them for a car accident that they caused. Alcohol/drugs were not involved. Their work requires travel throughout the state and their work hours change from week to week.

- What must and what may be included in the ODL order? How can the order address the person's work needs?

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Scenario #8

The court denies an applicant's request for an ODL. The applicant is unhappy and believes it was denied in error.

1. What if the applicant files a notice of appeal? How does the court handle that?
2. What if the court finds out that the applicant filed a new application in a different precinct? What should the court do?

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Q&A

Any burning questions about ODLs?