

More than 396,000 motorists have been issued with penalty points since their introduction in Ireland in 2002. 571,686 penalty point notices have been issued since its introduction in 2002

There are currently 36 offences which attract penalty points

Drivers holding mobile phones are also liable to prosecution

within 56 days of the offence. 2 penalty points will be added to your licence if you opt not to go to court. If you are convicted in court for non-wearing of a seatbelt, 4 penalty points will be added to your licence and you will be liable to an 800 euro fine for a first offence. Read more about the regulations regarding the wearing of seatbelts in Ireland.

- **Motor insurance offences:** generally punishable by a fine of up to 2,500 euro, disqualification of one year or more for a first offence and two years or more for a second offence, and, at the discretion of the court, a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months. Since 1st June 2003, where the court decides not to impose a disqualification drivers convicted of a first offence of driving without insurance will incur 5 penalty points on their licence record in addition to any other penalty imposed by the court.
- **Careless driving:** This is defined as 'driving a vehicle in a public place without due care and attention'. The Gardai enforce careless driving offences and this involves a mandatory court appearance. From 4th June 2004, a driver charged and subsequently found guilty of careless driving will receive 5 penalty points on their licence. Drivers may also be fined up to a maximum of 1,500 euro, or given a prison sentence to a maximum of 3 months. (You should note the courts also have discretion to impose both the 1,500 euro fine and the 3 month prison sentence together).

Our Legal Advisors are on hand 24 hours a day to provide advice on any road traffic law matter or contact our helpline on 1850 670 747.

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Title of Offence	Penalty Points on Payment of Fixed Charge	Penalty Points on Court Conviction	Fixed Charge	
			Amount paid in 28 days	Amount paid in next 28 days
Speeding (introduced 31 Oct 2002)	2	4	€80	€120
Driving without Insurance (introduced 1 June 2003)	M	5	Court Fine	
Failure by Driver to comply with front seat belt requirements	2	4	€80	€90
Driver permitting passenger to occupy rear seat without wearing a seatbelt (under 17) or appropriate child restraint (introduced 25 August 2003)	2	4	€80	€90
Driver found to be driving carelessly (introduced 4 June 2004)	M	5	Court Fine	
Using mobile phone while driving	2	4	€80	€90
Dangerous overtaking	2	5	€80	€120
Failure to act in accordance with a Garda signal	1	3	€80	€120
Failure to stop a vehicle before stop sign/ stop line	2	4	€80	€120
Failure to yield right of way at a yield sign/ yield line	2	4	€80	€120
Crossing continuous white line	2	4	€80	€120
Entry by driver into hatched marked area of roadway, e.g. carriageway reduction lane	1	3	€80	€120
Failure to obey traffic lights	2	5	€80	€120
Failure to obey traffic rules at railway level crossing	2	5	€80	€120
Driving a vehicle on a motorway against the flow of traffic	2	4	€80	€120
Driving on the hard shoulder on a motorway	1	3	€80	€120
Driving a HGV or bus on the outside lane on a motorway	1	3	€80	€120
Failure to drive on the left hand side of the road	1	3	€60	€90
Failure to obey requirements at junctions, e.g. not being in the correct lane when turning onto another road	1	3	€60	€90
Failure to obey requirements regarding reversing of vehicles, e.g. reversing from minor road onto main road	1	3	€60	€90
Driving on a footpath	1	3	€60	€90
Driving on a cycle track	1	3	€80	€90
Failure to turn left when entering a roundabout	1	3	€60	€90
Driving on a median strip, e.g. boundary between two carriageways	1	3	€60	€90
Failure to stop for a school warden sign	1	4	€80	€120
Failure to stop when so required by a member of the Garda Síochána	2	5	€80	€120
Failure to leave appropriate distance between you and the vehicle in front	2	4	€80	€120
Failure to yield	2	4	€80	€120
Driving without reasonable consideration	2	4	€80	€120
Failure to comply with mandatory traffic signs at junctions	1	3	€60	€90
Failure to comply with prohibitory traffic signs	1	3	€60	€90
Failure to comply with keep left/keep right signs	1	3	€60	€90
Failure to comply with traffic lane markings	1	3	€60	€90
Illegal entry onto a one-way street	1	3	€60	€90
Driving a vehicle when unfit	M	3	Court Fine	
Parking a vehicle in a dangerous position	M	5	Court Fine	
Breach of duties at an accident	M	5	Court Fine	