

Private Hire Drivers Licence Conditions

Private Hire Drivers are required to ensure compliance with the following conditions at all times.

CONDUCT OF DRIVER

The driver shall:

- (1) afford all reasonable assistance with passenger's luggage.
- (2) at all times be clean and respectable in his dress and person and behave in a civil and orderly manner.
- (3) take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of passengers conveyed in, entering or alighting from the vehicle driven by him.
- (4) not without the express consent of the hirer, drink or eat in the vehicle. At no time shall a driver smoke in the vehicle.
- (5) not without the express consent of the hirer play any radio or sound reproducing instrument or equipment in the vehicle other than for the purpose of sending or receiving messages in connection with the operation of the vehicle.
- (6) at no time cause or permit the noise emitted by any radio or other previously mentioned equipment in the vehicle which he is driving to be a source of nuisance or annoyance to any person, whether inside or outside the vehicle.

PASSENGERS

The driver shall not convey or permit to be conveyed in a private hire vehicle a greater number of persons than prescribed in the licence for the vehicle.

The driver shall not allow there to be conveyed in the front of a private hire vehicle:

Any child below the age of ten years; or
More than one person above that age.

The driver shall not without the consent of the hirer of the vehicle convey or permit to be conveyed any other person in that vehicle.

LOST PROPERTY

- (1) The driver shall immediately after the termination of any hiring of a private hire vehicle or as soon as practicable thereafter carefully search the vehicle for any property which may have been accidentally left there.
- (2) if any property accidentally left in a private hire vehicle by any person who may have been conveyed therein is found by or handed to the driver, he shall take it as soon as possible and in any event within twenty-four hours if not sooner claimed by or on behalf of its owner to the Council office and leave it in the custody of the officer in charge on his given a receipt for it.

WRITTEN RECEIPTS

The Driver shall if requested by the hirer of a private hire vehicle provide the hirer with a written receipt for the fare paid.

ANIMALS

The driver shall not convey in a private hire vehicle any animal belonging to or in the custody of himself or the proprietor or operator of the vehicle and he shall ensure that any animal belonging to or in the custody of any passenger is conveyed in the rear of the vehicle. The driver shall carry without charge a guide dog or assistance dog unless precluded from doing so by a proven medical condition.

PROMPT ATTENDANCE

The driver of a private hire vehicle shall, if he is aware that the vehicle has been hired to be in attendance at an appointed time and place or he has otherwise been instructed by the operator or proprietor of the vehicle to be in attendance at an appointed time and place, punctually attend at that appointed time and place, unless delayed or prevented by sufficient cause.

DISPLAY OF APPOINTMENT BOARD

The driver of a private hire vehicle when awaiting a passenger through a prearranged appointment shall display in the windscreen of the vehicle a board containing the name of that passenger and the appointed time of the meeting.

TOUTING AND SOLICITING

The driver shall not, whilst driving or in charge of a private hire vehicle

- (1) tout or solicit any person to hire or be carried for hire in any private hire vehicle;
- (2) cause or procure any other person to tout or solicit any person to hire or be carried for hire in any private hire vehicle.

TAXIMETER

Unless the fare has been agreed at the time of the booking, where a private hire vehicle being driven is fitted with a taximeter, the driver shall not cause the fare recorder thereon to be cancelled or concealed until the hirer has had a reasonable opportunity of examining it and has paid the fare or it is intended that the hirer is to pay on an account rendered.

FARE TO BE DEMANDED

The driver shall before the commencement of any journey ensure that the hirer is aware of the pre-arranged fare for the journey and the driver shall not demand from any hirer of a private hire vehicle a fare in excess of any previously agreed for that hiring between the hirer and the operator. If the vehicle is fitted with a taximeter and there has been no previous agreement as to the fare, the fare shown on the face of the taximeter is not to be exceeded.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The driver shall notify the Council in writing of any change of his address during the period of the licence within seven days of such change taking place.

CONVICTIONS AND CAUTIONS

All licensed drivers shall within seven calendar days of notification, report to the Council in writing details of any conviction(s), caution(s), Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) for crime or endorsable offences or FPN for disorder or ASBO's, imposed on him or her during the period of the licence, including all motoring offences and any pending proceedings.

RETURN OF BADGE

The driver shall upon the expiry, revocation or suspension of this licence forthwith return to the Council the driver's badge issued to him by the Council when granting this licence.

ACCIDENT/VEHICLE DAMAGE REPORTING

It is a legal requirement under Section 50 (3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous provisions) Act 1976 to report vehicle damage to the Council within 72 hours. This requirement applies to damage materially affecting the safety, performance or appearance of the vehicle or the comfort or convenience of passengers.

DRIVING STANDARDS AGENCY TEST

Existing drivers will not be required to undergo this DSA test. Where it becomes evident that a licensed drivers' driving ability has fallen below the standard considered to be safe or where a driver has acquired between 7 to 9 penalty points on their DVLA driving licence, a licensed driver should undergo the DSA test. If such a test is failed, consideration will be given to suspend a driver's licence until they successfully pass. This decision will only be taken by the Assistant Director (Environmental Health) under existing delegated powers where there is a potential risk to the public.

An applicant or driver would meet the cost of the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire DSA test.