



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT IIDs

Q&A: FEES

Q: How much does an IID cost?

A: Each approved manufacturer and service center will charge fees for device installation, monthly service, calibration, data monitoring or reporting, and removal at the end of the IID order. In addition to these mandatory services, they may charge additional fees for services like insurance, violation resets, missing appointments, changing vehicles, or early termination, provided they are disclosed at the time of installation.

Q: Why is my vehicle considered “high-end” for installation?

A: A typical installation fee charged by a service center is based on the amount of time needed to install an IID in a keyed vehicle ignition. The wiring diagram for a keyed ignition is relatively straight-forward and hasn’t changed significantly since the advent of electronic ignition systems 40 or more years ago.

A high-end installation is one where the vehicle has a push button system. These typically require recognition of a key fob, either by inserting it into a slot, or by sensing the radio waves they emit. These systems include additional electrical components, and the wiring diagrams can become complex. As a result, it will take more time to properly install the ignition interlock device and the fees will be adjusted accordingly. When you speak with a manufacturer, they will ask about your vehicle make, model and VIN so they can determine whether your vehicle will require additional time to accommodate a keyless ignition and any security system.

Q: What are the requirements for reduced fees for an IID?

A: Low-income offenders, with annual incomes less than 150% of the current non-farm Federal Poverty Level (FPL), are entitled to pay only half of the regular cost of equipping each motor vehicle with an IID (installation and removal) and one-half of the cost per day per vehicle of maintaining (routine calibration and associated fees) the device. There are no provisions for a reduction in any other fee that may be assessed by an ignition interlock provider.

The current limits are available from the U.S. Health and Human Services website <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines>.

Contact the Clerk of Courts where your arrest occurred to determine what information must be provided for the court to make this declaration. It is optimal that eligibility be determined at the time of conviction, as there is no requirement for a refund if eligibility is determined after the device has been installed at full cost. You may be required to provide proof of eligibility to the interlock company at or before your installation appointment.

Q: Our family has four vehicles- we cannot afford to have IIDs installed in all of them. What are our options?

A: The interlock rule includes a provision that allowed the court to exempt one or more vehicles from the order if it would create an undue financial hardship.

For example: John and Betty Smith (not real persons) own a minivan, a pickup, a sedan, and an SUV. John drives the SUV to work and the pickup to tow their camper and for hunting trips out west and their daughter, who is attending the University of Iowa, has the sedan. Betty and 2 teenage sons share use of the minivan. Betty was convicted of refusing the chemical test and received a 12-month interlock order.



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The law requires each of these vehicles be equipped with an ignition interlock device, at an annual cost over \$4,000.

At the time of sentencing, Betty explained to the court that they are financially supporting their daughter and the eldest son will also be going to college in the fall. They simply cannot afford to maintain IIDs in vehicles she does not drive. The judge agreed and subsequently exempted the pickup, sedan, and SUV from the order. If Betty is caught driving any of the exempted vehicles, she could be facing fines between \$150-\$600 and/or up to six months in jail, plus a mandatory six-month extension of the IID order.

The court cannot waive the license restriction, so the offender must have at least one vehicle equipped with an IID to comply with the order. The offender should make this request at the time of sentencing as the form must be signed and submitted directly to DMV by the court.