



**Epping Forest
District Council**

**PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE
GUIDANCE**

Revised 5/2016

PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE CONDITIONS

Epping Forest District Council is the licensing authority in respect of Private Hire Driver's licences. The Licence is granted subject to the following conditions which it considers are reasonably necessary for the regulation of private hire vehicles drivers within its district. All applications that fall outside these conditions will be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for determination and may incur additional costs to be paid by the applicant

Conduct of Driver

1. No person shall drive a vehicle licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle without a Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence which must be renewed every three years. The holder shall also produce that licence for examination by the proprietor of the vehicle, both at the commencement of his/her employment and immediately after its renewal.
2. The driver must:
 - (a) be clean, respectable and act with civility towards every person travelling in the vehicle and shall comply with their reasonable requirements;

NB. Minimum standards of dress prohibit the wearing of vests or singlets. Shorts may be worn only if properly tailored and of sufficient length when the driver is seated as not to offend against decency.
 - (b) not smoke in the vehicle at any time.
3. If a driver carries a hirer to a certain place and the hirer asks the driver to wait, the driver may ask for his/her fare for driving there and ask also for a deposit against a mutually agreed waiting time. After accepting such a deposit, the driver should not drive until the expiry of the mutually agreed waiting time.
4. The driver of a Private Hire Vehicle who shall have agreed or shall have been hired to be in attendance with the vehicle at an appointed time and place shall, unless delayed or prevented by some sufficient cause, punctually attend with such vehicle at the appointed time and place and should confirm the identity of the hirer.
5. When picking up the hirer, the driver shall make his/her presence known in person and shall not attract the hirer's attention by sounding the car horn, shouting or making any other disturbing noise.
6. The driver of a Private Hire Vehicle, when hired to drive to any particular destination shall, subject to any directions given by the hirer, proceed to that destination by the shortest available route.
7. The driver shall not drive a vehicle that is a Private Hire Vehicle unless it is displaying a licence plate in compliance with the vehicle licensing conditions.

Badges

8. A driver shall, at all times, display his badge so that it is clearly visible.
9. The driver will return their badges to the Licensing Office upon the expiry, revocation or suspension of their licence.
10. After the expiry date shown on any drivers licence that is no longer valid any badge must be returned to the Licensing Section immediately.
11. A licence holder, on changing his/her address shall notify the Council of such a change within seven days.

Insurance /MOT/ DVLA Licence.

12. The driver is responsible for ensuring that any vehicle in his/her charge is insured for use as a Private Hire Vehicle.
13. The appropriate MOT Certificate and insurance documents covering the use of that vehicle and driver shall be produced within seven days when required by the Council. A copy of these documents shall also be carried on the vehicle and must be produced on request by an authorised officer of the Council or a police officer.
14. The driver of a Private Hire Vehicle shall produce his/her DVLA licence on request for inspection by an authorised officer of the Council, or any police officer.

Passengers and Luggage

15. A driver shall not carry or permit to be carried in his/her vehicle any greater number of persons than the number specified in the licence issued to that particular vehicle and must not refuse to carry fewer persons than the number marked on the plate
16. Once a Private Hire Vehicle has been hired, a driver shall not carry anyone else during that hire, without the consent of the first hirer.
17. Adequate safe luggage facilities must be provided and the driver shall, when requested by the hirer:
 - afford reasonable assistance in loading and unloading such luggage;
 - afford reasonable assistance in removing such luggage to or from the entrance of any building, station or place at which he/she may take up or set down such person.
18. A driver must take reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of persons entering or alighting from the vehicle and also ensure that the relevant legislation regarding seat belts and child restraints are complied with.

Lost Property

19. The driver of a Private Hire Vehicle shall immediately after the termination of the hiring search the vehicle for any property, which may have been accidentally left therein. The driver shall on finding such property, carry it as soon as possible and in any case within 24 hours, to his/her operator.

Animals

20. Subject to condition 21, any animal belonging to or in the custody of any passenger can be conveyed in a licensed vehicle at the driver's discretion.
21. A driver of a licensed vehicle is required to carry the following assistance dogs free of charge, unless the driver has a proven medical condition that would preclude such actions:
 - guide dogs for the blind;
 - hearing dogs;
 - dogs for the disabled;
 - support dogs (e.g. epilepsy).

All assistance dogs can be identified usually by their harness or their identification coat.

22. A driver shall only be exempt from condition 21 on medical grounds and on having obtained an exemption notice from the Council. The notice of exemption shall be displayed in a prominent position

Fares

23. The driver shall not demand from the hirer a fare in excess of any previously agreed fare for that hiring.
24. Where a tariff is enforced, a tariff card shall be displayed on the inside of the vehicle in such a position as is plainly visible to persons travelling in the vehicle.
25. If requested, the driver shall provide the hirer with a written receipt for the fare paid.

Use of Private Hire Vehicle

26. No driver, licensed or otherwise, shall act as a Private Hire Vehicle driver without the consent of the owner of the Private Hire Vehicle.
27. A driver shall not obstruct or hinder another Public Hire Vehicle driver in any way.

28. Private Hire Vehicles may not wait on any stand designated for the use of Hackney Carriages.

Trailers

29. A driver of a licensed Private Hire vehicle will be permitted to tow a trailer provided that: -
- the trailer complies with all legal requirements
 - He/she holds the appropriate category on his/her DVLA driving licence, which must be produced to the Council.
 - He/she ensures that the Private Hire Vehicle Plate must be visible at all times
 - He/she ensures that any trailer affixed to any Private Hire Vehicle which he/she drives has been inspected and approved in accordance with the Council's conditions of licence for a Hackney Carriage Vehicle.

Medical Conditions

30. The driver shall notify the Council in writing of any medical condition that arises after the issue of the licence that may affect their ability to drive safely.

Criminal Convictions

31. In the event that a licence holder is charged or summoned for any alleged criminal offence, then he shall within seven days of being charged or on receipt of the summons (as the case may be) report the fact, in writing, to the Licensing authority, giving particulars of each alleged offence and in which court the proceedings are pending.
32. In the event that a licence holder is convicted of any criminal offence or has an official caution administered to them, he/she shall within seven days of such conviction, report that conviction in writing to the Council, and give particulars of each conviction and any penalty points imposed in respect of it. **All driving offences shall be reported to the Council (this also includes a totting up of points.)**
33. Following any conviction or the issue of a fixed penalty notice which results in penalty points being endorsed on the licence holder's DVLA driving licence, that licence must be produced to the Council within seven working days of its return from the DVLA or a Court or a Fixed Penalty Office, following the endorsement of the offence thereon.

Safeguarding

34. All drivers must have available in the vehicle at all times any safety/safeguarding information that the council deems fit. NB This information will be supplied to the driver free of charge.

Failure to comply with any of the conditions will result in a referral to the appropriate officer of the Council or to the Licensing Sub Committee for consideration of suspension or revocation of licence.