

# THURROCK COUNCIL

## Private Hire Driver Conditions

## PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER CONDITIONS

1. A licence holder, on changing his address, shall notify the Council of such change within seven days.
2. The licence holder shall notify the Council of any conviction against him/her immediately in writing after the conviction has been imposed.
  - (a) Following any conviction or the issue of a fixed penalty notice which results in penalty points being endorsed on the licence holder's DVLA licence, that DVLA licence must be produced to the Licensing Authority within seven days of its return from the DVLA, court or fixed penalty office following the endorsement of the offence.
  - (b) In the event that the licence holder is charged or summonsed for any alleged criminal offence, then within seven days of being charged or of receipt of the summons, he shall report the fact in writing to the Licensing Authority giving the particulars of each alleged offence and in which court the proceedings are pending.
3. Medical Fitness:
  - (a) Up to the age of 70 years, private hire drivers will be required to undergo a medical examination to DVLA Group 2 standards as to their fitness to drive, every three years, or any lesser period that the examining doctor may decide.
  - (b) Those drivers suffering from known and notified medical disorders and those over 70 years of age, will be required to undergo a medical examination to Group 2 standards annually, or any lesser period that the examining doctor may decide.
  - (c) Drivers over the age of 70 years are required to produce documentary evidence of an additional eyesight test, such evidence to be dated six months prior to the date of application.
  - (d) All medical examinations will be at the expense of the individual driver. Thurrock Council reserves the right in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to require an applicant or driver to undertake an independent medical examination to DVLA Group 2 standards at such clinic or hospital as the Council may direct.
4. A driver shall at all times when working, wear their badge on their person so that it is clearly visible.
5. No driver, licensed or not, shall act as a private hire driver without consent of the proprietor.
6. No person shall, being the driver of a private hire vehicle, without reasonable excuse:
  - (a) Refuse to attend the needs of, or refuse assistance to any person with a disability, whether or not they are the user of a wheelchair.

- (b) Refuse to permit the carriage of a dog used as a guide dog for a blind or partially sighted person, a hearing dog for those otherwise impaired, or an assistance dog.
  - (c) No person shall, being the driver of a private hire vehicle, charge for carrying a guide dog, hearing dog or assistance dog, or for the carriage of a wheelchair.
- 7. A driver shall not refuse to carry fewer persons than the number marked on the plate.
- 8. If a driver carries a hirer to a certain place and the hirer asks the driver to wait, the driver may ask for his fare for driving there and ask also for a deposit against the waiting time. After accepting such a deposit, the driver shall not drive away without the consent of the hirer.
- 9. 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:
  - (a) Unless delayed or prevented by some sufficient cause, punctually attend with such vehicle at the appointed time and place.
  - (b) When picking up the hirer, make his presence known in person and shall not attract the hirer's attention by sounding their horn, shouting or making any other disturbing noise.
- 10. A driver shall:
  - (a) Convey a reasonable quantity of luggage;
  - (b) Afford reasonable assistance in loading and unloading such luggage;
  - (c) When requested by the hirer, afford reasonable assistance in removing such luggage to or from the entrance of any building, station or place at which he may pick up or set down such person.
- 11. If the private hire vehicle is fitted with a meter, the driver shall, at the commencement of the journey, activate the meter so that the word "HIRED" is clearly visible and shall keep the meter operating until the termination of the hiring. "Commencement of the journey" means:
  - (a) When the hirer enters the vehicle;
  - (b) When the driver has attended at an appointed place and has made their presence known to the hirer.
  - (c) When the driver has presented themselves at an appointed place at a specified time.
- 12. The driver of a private hire vehicle shall at all times when the vehicle is hired:
  - (a) Take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of persons travelling in, entering or alighting from their vehicle;
  - (b) Be clean, respectable, of smart appearance and act with civility towards all persons and shall comply with the reasonable requirements of the hirer(s).

- (c) The wearing of vests or singlets and sports gear, such as football shirts and tracksuits is prohibited. Shorts may be worn in hot weather only if properly tailored and of sufficient length when the driver is seated as not to offend against decency. Brightly coloured or highly decorated shorts of a style more appropriate as beach/holiday wear are also prohibited.
13. 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.
  14. Once a private hire vehicle has been hired, a driver shall not carry anyone else during that hire, without the explicit consent of the first hirer.
  15. The driver shall not demand from any hirer of a private hire vehicle a fare greater than that agreed with the operator or, 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.
  16. 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. On finding any property left in his vehicle, a driver shall carry it as soon as possible and in any case within 72 hours, to the Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, and deposit it there against receipt from the Officer in charge.