

# THE BEAVERS LAW BITE

## GUEST ARTICLE: What’s the Point? DMV Demerit Points

By Mark Matney

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) uses a point system to monitor Virginia drivers. The DMV assigns demerit points for driving convictions and rewards safe driving and driver improvement courses with positive points.

A new Virginia driver begins with 0 points. This applies to both first-time drivers and drivers who transfer from another state. Drivers earn one point for each calendar year without any traffic infractions or license suspensions. Completing a driver improvement course accelerates the process by providing 5 positive points. Points may be earned only through the course once every two years. The maximum a driver may earn is 5 points.

Courts do not assign demerit points directly. Instead, the DMV assigns them based on the nature of the court conviction. Demerit points are deducted for every moving violation. Each infraction is assigned a point value of -3, -4, or -6, depending on the severity of the offense. Speeding 20+ mph over the limit and all misdemeanors (i.e. reckless driving, DUI, driving with a suspended license) are assigned 6 demerit points. Examples of 4 demerit point violations are speeding (10-19 mph over limit), passing when unsafe, and failure to yield right of way. 3 demerit point violations include speeding (1-9 mph over limit), improper U-turn, and failure to obey a highway sign. If a driver is convicted of more than one violation in the same incident, then

DMV will assign points only for the most severe charge.

There is no limit to how many negative points a driver could accumulate. However, DMV will place a driver on probation if he accumulates 12 or more points in a 12-month period or 18 or more points in a 24-month period. An additional demerit point violation while on probation results in suspension of the driver’s license without a restricted license.

For more information about DMV demerit points or traffic infractions, you may refer to [www.dmv.virginia.gov](http://www.dmv.virginia.gov) or contact Mark Matney at [MatneyLawPLLC.com](http://MatneyLawPLLC.com).

March’s Sudoku Puzzle: Medium #240

	9							
				2		5	6	
3			1	4				
		4		6	5			
	8		9		7			3
								9
2		8					4	5
	1				6			
						9		

Last month’s answer on our website and Facebook page!

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## UPCOMING PRESENTATION:

BEAVERS LAW, P.C. to present seminar:

Preventing Elder Abuse through Estate Planning

What: Half-hour presentation with light hor d'oeuvres

When: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

Where: Towne Bank at 5216 Monticello Avenue  
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Please RSVP by April 13, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.  
by emailing [shannon@beaverslaw.com](mailto:shannon@beaverslaw.com)



At Beavers Law, P.C., we know that, at any moment, your legal situation can become one of the most important things in your life, and you want to make sure that you know what to expect at every step of the process. Contact our Office at **(757) 234-4650!**

**Thank you for the referrals from all our past and present clients!**  
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IN THIS ISSUE: APPRECIATION: GUEST ARTICLE, SEMINAR, AND SUDOKU

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