

Spokane County Sheriff's Office

C.A.R.E.S (Collision Avoidance Reduction & Education School)

Ozzie D. Knezovich, Sheriff
www.spokanesheriff.org



The Spokane County Sheriffs Office Collision Avoidance Reduction & Education School (**C.A.R.E.S.**) is for drivers who have been cited for a minor traffic infraction. It is designed to improve the driver's knowledge and understanding of traffic laws while teaching safe driving techniques and strategies.

How To Keep a Traffic Violation Off Your Driving Record!

Please Read This Entire Brochure

If you have not attended C.A.R.E.S. within the past eighteen (18) months, and your infraction has ONLY one violation or one violation accompanied by a no insurance violation, you may be eligible to attend the Spokane County Sheriff's Office **C.A.R.E.S.** Program. Successful completion of the program allows you to keep one moving violation from being added to your driving record. You may attend the school for a non-moving violation but you can only attend once every 18 months. If you attend for a non-moving violation and later receive a moving violation within the 18 month timeframe, you will not be eligible to attend **C.A.R.E.S.** again or have the moving violation removed from your record.

**You must apply for the C.A.R.E.S program in person within fifteen (15) days of the date you receive your ticket.
No Exceptions.**

After successful completion of the class, the County Prosecutor will move for a dismissal of your infraction. Upon dismissal, there will be no further fine or legal action taken. You will not have to appear in court, and the violation will not appear on your driving record. The class fee is **\$135**. **You do not pay the fine for the primary violation.**

The following violations are ineligible for Traffic School:

- No insurance **UNLESS you can show proof that you have obtained liability insurance covering you by your scheduled class date.**
- If your driver's license is suspended, revoked or expired when you apply for the class.
- Speeding in a school, park, or construction zone.
- Juvenile license restriction violations.
- Multiple moving violations on one infraction.
- Negligent Driving infractions or criminal citations.
- **Any** violation if you have a Commercial Driver's License (COL).

Response to Infraction

You must meet certain criteria in order to attend the Spokane County Sheriff's Office C.A.R.E.S. program. You must have a valid driver's license and you can only attend the school once every 18 months. ONLY citations with one violation or a violation accompanied by a no insurance violation will be eligible for the class.

Within fifteen (15) days of the date of your infraction, completely fill out the application on the opposite side of this brochure. Take your infraction, application form and driver's license to the Spokane County District Court, window 5. A court date will be set for you to cover the possibility you may not qualify for Traffic School. You do not pay the fine for the traffic violation.

While at District Court, you will need to pay the \$135 class fee. Payment may be made by cash, check, or money order. (The \$135 fee does not include the \$25 "no insurance" administrative fee referred to below for insurance violations)

Upon acceptance to the C.A.R.E.S. program, you will be notified by mail informing you of your class date. You are required to attend class on the date scheduled. Class dates cannot be rescheduled and your \$135 fee is nonrefundable if you withdraw less than 14 days prior to the class date. If you successfully complete Traffic School, your citation will be dismissed and you will NOT need to appear in court.

Insurance Violations

If you are cited for no insurance but can prove you had insurance at the time the infraction was written, you may present your proof of insurance to the Spokane County District Court when you set your court date. The insurance portion will be dismissed and you can apply for the C.A.R.E.S. program for the remaining violation if applicable. There is a \$25 administrative fee payable to the District Court for the dismissal of the insurance violation (R.C.W. 46.30.020).

If you are cited for no insurance and you did not have insurance at the time of the infraction, you still may apply for the C.A.R.E.S. program but you must show you have obtained valid insurance by the beginning of traffic class. Proof of insurance may be shown at class and the \$25 administrative fee paid at that time (personal check or money order ONLY, payable to: Spokane County District Court). If you do not obtain insurance or forget to bring proof of valid insurance, you WILL be required to show proof and pay the \$25 administrative fee to the District Court within 15 days following the class date. If you fail to provide proof within the 15 days, you WILL NOT be issued a refund, and your infraction WILL NOT be dismissed.

If you are determined to be Ineligible

If it is determined that you are ineligible for C.A.R.E.S. you will be contacted by mail. The C.A.R.E.S. fee, less the \$25 administrative fee, will be refunded to you within approximately 4 to 6 weeks. If you are ineligible, you are responsible for making the court date you set when you applied for the C.A.R.E.S. program. If you have any question about court or you cannot remember your court date, contact the Spokane County District Court at 509-477-4770.

Spokane County District Court and Sheriff's Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. (Closed on holidays). Both are located at 1100 W. Mallon. For questions about Traffic School, call 509-477-6968, or e-mail: trafficclass@spokanesherriff.org.