

# PAY YOUR FINES

to keep your driving  
and operating privileges



All citizens must pay their fines to keep their driving and operating privileges. If you fail to pay a fine to a collecting entity, the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ) will be notified. Your privileges will then be withdrawn until your debt is settled.

## **THE DRIVING PRIVILEGE MEANS...**

Having a valid driver's licence or the right to obtain one.

## **THE OPERATING PRIVILEGE MEANS...**

Any vehicle registered in your name is authorized for road use.

## **A COLLECTING ENTITY IS...**

A municipal court, a municipality or a courthouse.

## **FINES ARE ISSUED FOR...**

Offences under the *Highway Safety Code* or a municipal traffic or parking bylaw.

## AVOID PROBLEMS

If the SAAQ is notified by a collecting entity that you have not paid a fine, you can no longer:

- drive a vehicle;
- register a vehicle in your name;
- let someone drive a vehicle registered in your name;
- transfer ownership of a vehicle registered in your name if you sell it;
- discard a vehicle.

If you store a vehicle that is prohibited from road use, any reimbursement will first be applied to your fines.

Once the collecting entity has notified the SAAQ that your fine has been paid, your driving and operating privileges will be reinstated.

### What happens if you drive a vehicle after your driving privilege has been suspended?

The vehicle could immediately be seized and impounded for 30 days if you are pulled over by a police officer, regardless of whether you own the vehicle. In addition, you are liable to a fine of \$300 to \$600.

### What happens if you let someone drive a vehicle registered in your name?

This person could get a ticket and have to pay a fine if pulled over by a police officer. Your vehicle could also be towed and impounded.

## **BEFORE YOU DRIVE, BUY, SELL, RENT OR LEASE A VEHICLE**

Check the validity of your driver's licence. Then make sure you have the right to register a vehicle.

You can do so online at [saaq.gouv.qc.ca](http://saaq.gouv.qc.ca), or by telephone at **1-900-565-1212**. A fee will be charged for this service. Have the number of the driver's licence on hand. This number begins with the first letter of the last name of the licence holder.

This simple and inexpensive check could avoid having your registration transaction refused over the counter at an SAAQ service outlet.

**Are you buying a used vehicle  
from an automotive dealership  
or used car dealer?**

**Ask them whether the previous  
owner had the right to transfer  
ownership of the vehicle.**

## **PRISON IS NOT A SOLUTION**

**You cannot eliminate a fine by doing prison time. If it is proven that you deliberately refuse to pay your fines, you could be sentenced to a prison term (of up to 2 years less one day), and you will still be required to pay your fines.**

# FOR MORE INFORMATION ON...

## Paying a fine

### CONTACT

**The municipal courthouse concerned**

Their contact information appears on the *Driving Record – Offences and Penalties* document issued by the SAAQ with the penalty notice.

### OR

**The Bureau des infractions et amendes**

**1 877 AMENDES (263-6337)**

**[amendes.qc.ca](http://amendes.qc.ca)**

## Driver's licence or vehicle registration

### CONTACT

**Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec**

In Québec (city and vicinity):

**418 643-7620**

Elsewhere, toll-free (Québec, Canada, U.S.A.):

**1 800 561-2858**

**[saaq.gouv.qc.ca](http://saaq.gouv.qc.ca)**

**Société de l'assurance  
automobile**

**Québec** 