

[redacted] · [redacted] 8, 2026

Why Did You Pull Me Over, Officer?

Hon. [redacted] J. [redacted] *(Coordinator)* • Hon. [redacted] E. [redacted] • Ms. [redacted]
Dr. [redacted] • Hon. [redacted] J. [redacted]

Housekeeping

MORNING BREAK	10:45–11:00 a.m.
LUNCH	Noon–12:30 p.m.
AFTERNOON BREAK	1:20–1:30 p.m.
COURSE CLOSE	3:20–3:30 p.m.

Room, access and response-system details: [TO CONFIRM]

The morning

9:00–9:10	Welcome Hon.
9:10–9:50	Docket and Courtroom Control Hon.
9:50–10:45	Sentencing Alternatives & Problem Drivers Hon. E.
10:45–11:00	Break
11:00–noon	MVA: Licensing and Driving Records Ms.
Noon–12:30	Lunch

The afternoon

12:30–1:20	Medical Advisory Board Dr.
1:20–1:30	Break
1:30–2:45	Masking and CDL Implications Hon. J.
2:45–3:20	Afternoon Application • 35 minutes Faculty roles and format under review
3:20–3:30	Wrap-Up & Q&A • 10 minutes Hon. J.

Course learning outcomes

01 Judges will learn how to effectively handle problem drivers and the minor traffic sentencing alternatives available.

02 Judges will be provided with strategies to use to correct destructive and repetitive behavior of problem drivers and best practices.

03 Judges will learn about the MVA Graduated Licensing System and Medical Advisory Board.

Course learning outcomes

04 Judges will hear from the licensing agency concerning reading and interpreting Driving Records.

05 Judges will learn the nuts and bolts about Masking.

06 Judges will learn about the eligibility requirements of non-citizens for obtaining licenses in Maryland.

Meet the Faculty

- Hon. J.
  COORDINATOR · HOWARD COUNTY
  District Court of Maryland

- Hon. E.
  HARFORD COUNTY
  District Court of Maryland

- Ms.
  ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CENTRAL OPERATIONS
  Motor Vehicle Administration

- Dr. C.
  CHIEF, MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD
  Motor Vehicle Administration

- Hon. J.
  BALTIMORE COUNTY
  District Court of Maryland





9:00 – 9:10 · MORNING

Welcome

Hon. J.

9:10 – 9:50 · MORNING

Managing Your Docket and Courtroom Control

Hon. [redacted] J. [redacted]



Learning Objectives

After this discussion, you will be able to:

01

Manage your courtroom more comfortably and effectively; &

02

Apply tools and techniques to your courtroom practices to help improve outcomes and promote public confidence in our courts.

Reads in part that its missio

“to provide equal and exact justice for all who are involved in litigation before the Court.”

The statement continues, that i

“the sworn obligation of the judges of the Court to ensure that every case tried herein is adjudicated expeditiously, courteously, and according to law, and with the fullest protection for the rights of all who are involved, for the most extraordinary aspect of the judiciary in a free society is that even while exercising the vast authority entrusted to them, judges remain the servants, and not the masters, of those on whom they sit in judgment.”

“You have the ability in traffic court to influence how people perceive and view their government and the judicial system.”

Judge [redacted] District Court Hennepin County, MN (ret)

Traffic, 370,000 Annually!!!

- Payable, preset fine for minor infractions
- Must appear
- Reckless / driving with suspended license / driving without a license
- 21-902 DUI / DWI
- Parking, red light, camera, school bus, work zone



Promoting Public Confidence



The nature of judging:

01 Is not calling balls & strikes

02 Is exercising discretion

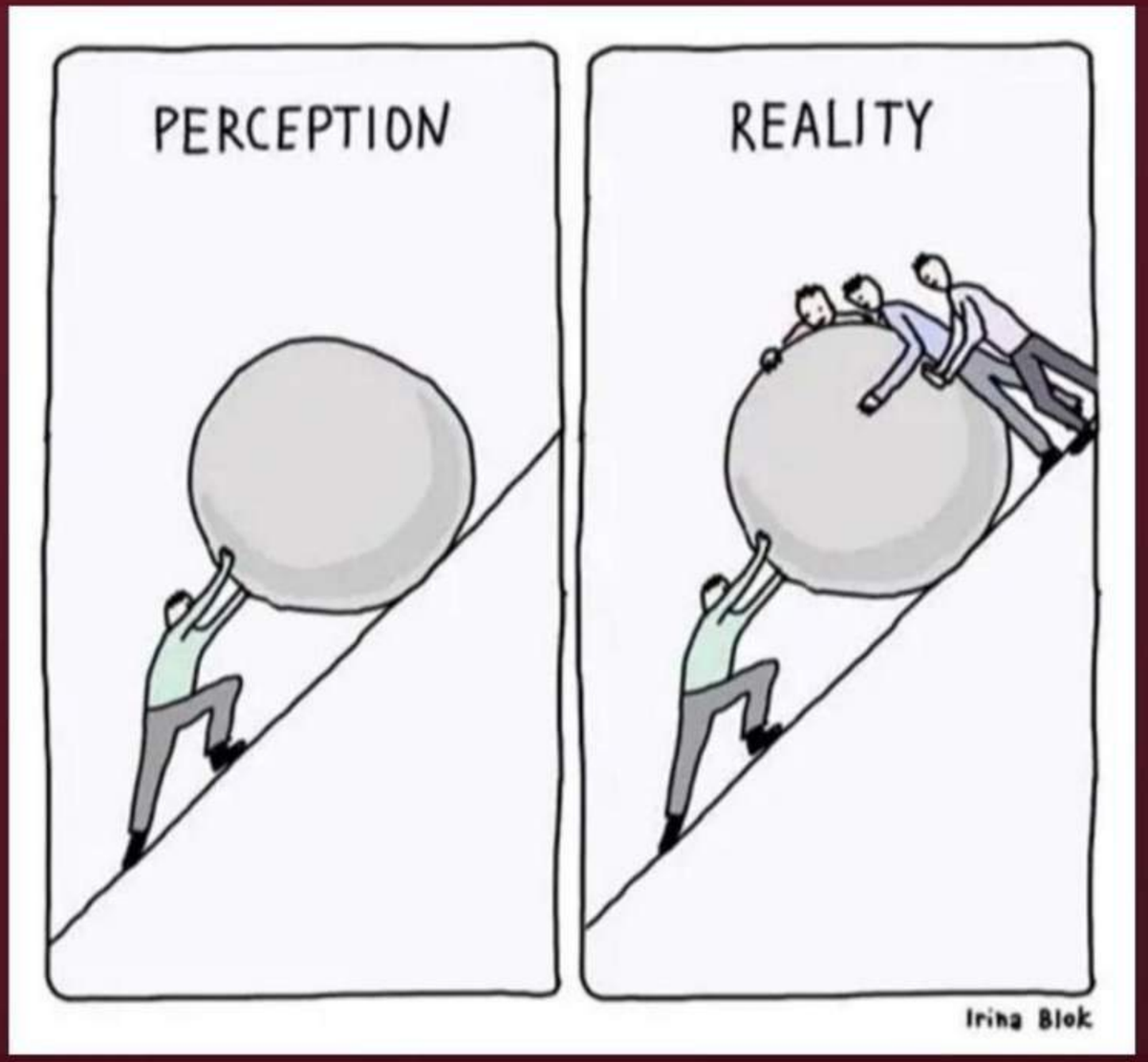
03 *“exactly what a judge should do cannot be fully described by specific formula”*

04 Fundamental fairness consistency

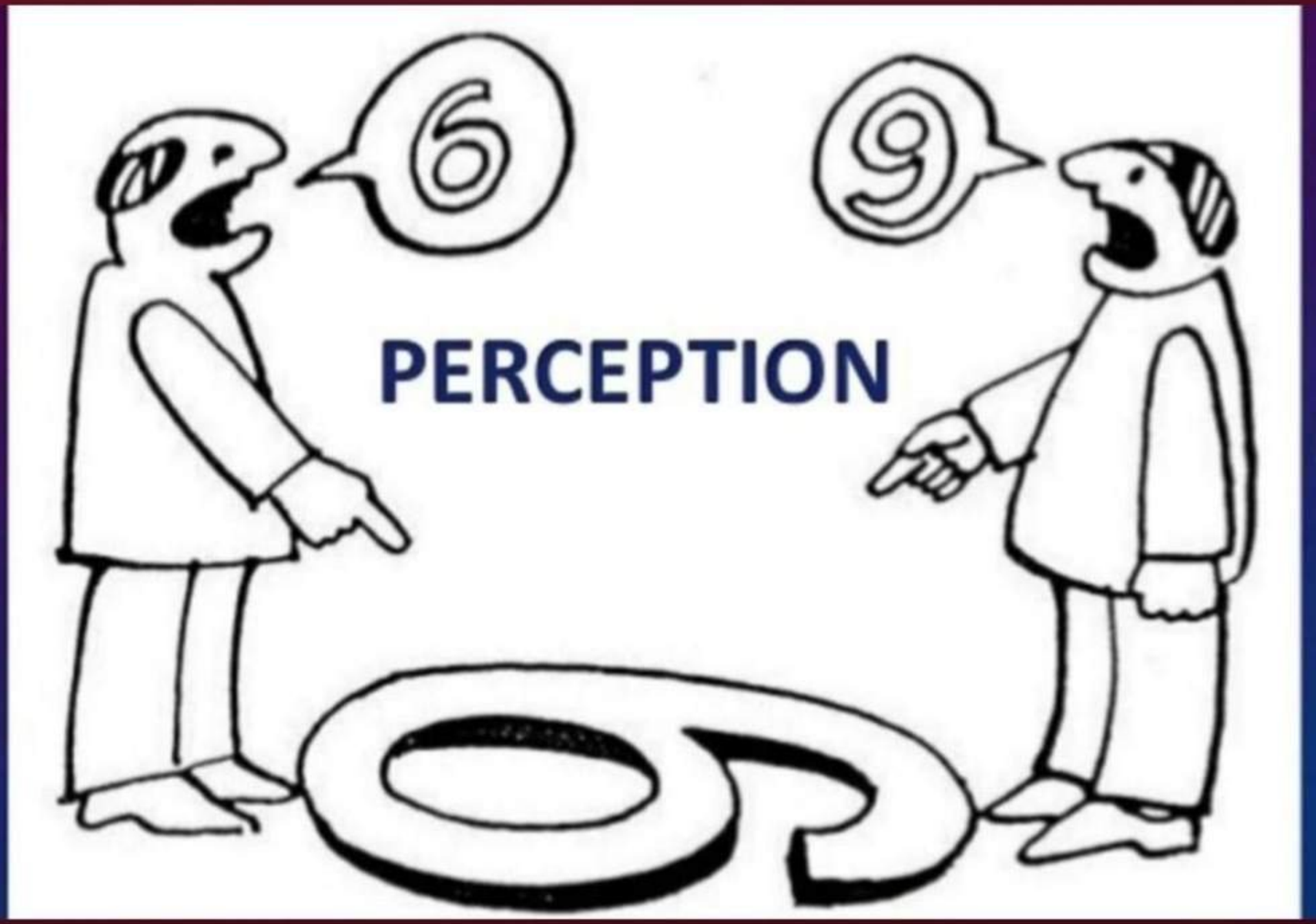


[redacted] Reaching Out or Overreaching: Judicial Ethics and Self Represented Litigants (AJS 2005)]

Biased or Skewed Perspective?



Biased or Skewed Perspective?



Perceptions & Expectations

SOURCE REVIEW REQ



LANGUAGE AS A TOOL

“Language is the most powerful tool in the courtroom. The words we use have meanings beyond the obvious – they influence attitudes, behavior and perceptions.”

Guidelines for Judicial Officers: Avoiding the Appearance of Bias, Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Access and Fairness, Orange County Bar Association Gender Equity Committee (August 2006).

ON THE BENCH

Be mindful of the tone and tenor of your voice

Slow down, it’s not a race

Do you feel we have a role to play in educating the public?

A Yes

B No


Real communication is
impossible without listening.
Ralph G. Smedley

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

“Real communication is impossible without listening.”

RALPH G. NICHOLS



Importance of Effective Communication



Provides opportunity to be heard



Promotes order, decorum & confidence in judiciary



Upholds integrity of the Court



Assures accurate decision making

What do these judges project with their nonverbal communications? Which judge would you like to appear before?

A



B



C



D



E



Courtroom Control



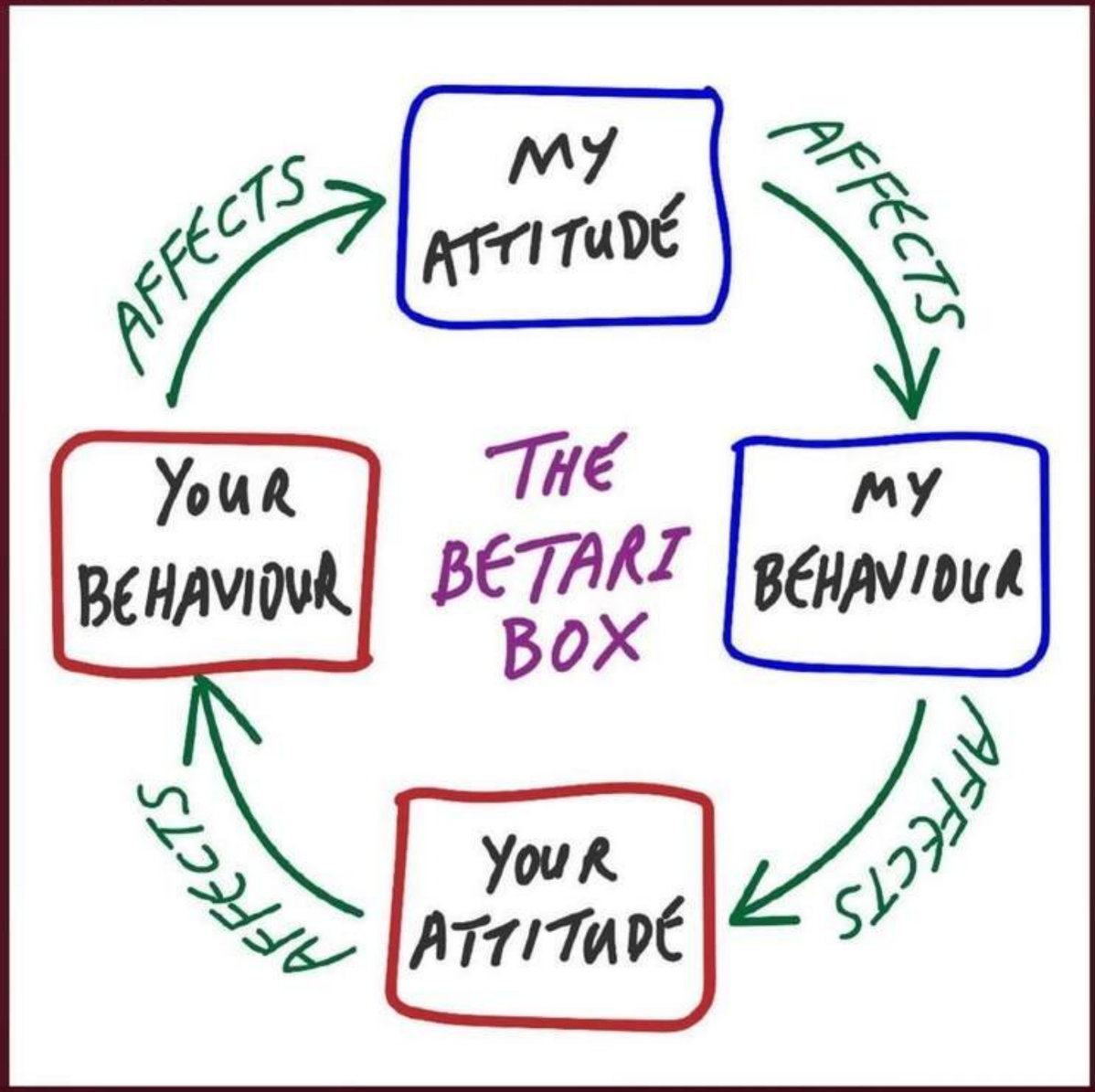
Identifying your source(s) of frustration in advance will have a positive impact on maintaining your composure when you inevitably encounter “that” behavior/situation in the courtroom.



3:00 p.m.

BEWITCHING HOUR

What the heck is a Betari Box?



A “Betari Box” is…

a visual model to show how your attitude affects your behavior, which then shapes another person’s attitude and behavior, completing a repeating cycle that loops back to influence you



Opening Statements

EIGHT POINTS

01 Best practice is to give one

02 Explain possible pleas

03 Explain PBJs

04 Explain opinion on potential defenses

05 Advise that MVA imposes those points, not the court

06 State post trial rights

07 State where the cashier’s window is located

08 School bus cases / red light camera and work zone

ON THE BENCH

How to Call a Docket

01 The crying baby.

02 The interpreter.

03 The Sovereign Citizen or disruptive litigant.

04 Waiver hearing vs. trial.

05 Missing or late-arriving counsel, witness, or defendant.

06 Fines and court costs (deferred payments); consistency across the day.



High Volume Dockets

The Unhappy Traffic Court Defendant

01 You just found the defendant guilty of speeding even though they testified that they could not have been speeding

02 The defendant is upset and begins arguing with you

03 To your chagrin, you find yourself arguing back



LIVE POLL

What do you do when faced with the unhappy defendant or victim?

A Disengage

B Take a recess

C Take a breath

D Avoid contempt

E Calmly agree to disagree

F Advise of right to appeal

The Unhappy Victim

01 The defendant enters a not guilty plea to negligent driving

02 Transportation Article 21-901(b): driving, in a careless or imprudent manner, that endangers people or property

03 After hearing the evidence, you find the defendant not guilty, and the outraged victim/witness is outraged and yells “this is bullshit.”

04 To your chagrin, you find yourself arguing back

05 What to do when Officer is not present but Victim is?

BEST PRACTICES

Disruptive Litigants

01 Refer to litigant by their name of choice

02 Afford the litigant all the rights they are due

03 Pick your battles (refusal to stand / take off hat etc…)

04 Keep calm & DO NOT RAISE YOUR VOICE

05 Hold the case until the end of the docket

06 Use contempt as last resort

07 Notify security — alert them to presence of DL



POTENTIAL STRATEGIES

Mental Health Disorders



01 Don’t take anything the person says personally

02 Attempt to de-escalate if person is overly-excited

03 Allow person to speak; be patient

04 Be firm but kind

05 Know when it’s time to redirect; when to disengage

“Making a decision is a sign of authority; explaining a decision is a sign of respect.”

F. Schauer, Giving Reasons, 47 Stanford L.R. 633 (1995)

Questions? Comments?





MORNING • 9:50–10:45 A.M. — 55 MINUTES

Sentencing Alternatives & Problem Drivers

Hon. E.

DRAFT FOR FACULTY REVIEW

Program materials received

MVA	Material to come
National Safety Council	Five course profiles supplied
PADDD	Flyer and trifold brochure supplied
National Traffic Safety Institute	Material to come

Presentation order remains for Judge to set.

Working overview built from the materials supplied so far.

Five defensive-driving profiles

COURSE	LENGTH	MODULES
DDC Attitudinal Dynamics of Driving	4 hr 15 min	4
DDC Attitudinal Dynamics of Driving	6 hr 25 min	6
DDC Attitudinal Dynamics of Driving	8 hr	8
DDC Alive at 25, 5th edition	4 hr	4
DDC State Courts Against Road Rage (SCARR)	4 hr 15 min	4

The appendix contains all five original course profiles.

A four-hour class

Positive Alternatives to Dangerous and Destructive Decisions

The supplied materials describe a court-approved class for impaired, distracted, speeding and reckless driving, online statewide since 1995.

Real-life impact

Participants hear directly from speakers whose personal experiences show the serious and lasting consequences of unsafe driving decisions.

Accountability

Participants complete all program requirements. The goal is meaningful participation, not simply registration and receipt of a certificate.

Reflection, change and completion

Personal reflection	Participants write a summary explaining what they learned and how it affected their perspective on driving.
Commitment to change	Participants identify three or four specific changes they will make to their driving practices.
Documented completion	After completing the requirements, participants receive documentation for the court or other referring authority.

Two class options

Virtual Live Class

$150

Monday: 4:45–9:00 p.m.
Saturday: 7:45 a.m.–noon

Four hours on camera. Participants receive a completion letter at the end of class and send it to the referring person.

ASAP Recorded

$200

Viewable anytime.
Completed within 48 hours.

Participants email their paper for review. Staff follows up if needed; participants may be asked to rewatch the video.

Program and court-letter contacts

Program information	[redacted] •
Court letters	[redacted] •
Email	
Website	www.PADDD.org

Flyer and trifold brochure are included in the appendix.

National Safety Council video



Online video • internet required • Open in browser

10:45 – 11:00 — FIFTEEN MINU

Break





MVA: 11 A.M.–NOON — GLS PORTION

Provisional License

Ms. · *Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration*

DRAFT FOR FACULTY REVIEW

The provisional license is the second step

WHAT IT ALLOWS

Drive without a supervising driver, and build real-world driving experience.

WHAT STILL APPLIES

Important restrictions remain, to protect the driver and others.

Qualifying for a provisional license

	SHARED REQUIREMENTS IN WORKING MATERIAL
AGES 16–18 Without diploma or equivalent Permit held at least 9 months	Complete a certified driver education course: 30 classroom hours and 6 behind-the-wheel hours.
AGE 18+ Permit held at least 3 months	Complete 60 supervised practice-driving hours, including at least 10 nighttime hours.
AGES 19–24 Permit held at least 3 months	No moving-violation conviction or probation before judgment within the preceding 9 months.

Under 18: A parent, guardian, or co-signer must consent. That consent may be withdrawn at any time.

Under 18: five operating restrictions

01 PASSENGERS

For the first 151 days, no passengers under 18 unless they are immediate family members. Otherwise, a qualified supervising driver must be in the car.

02 MIDNIGHT–5 A.M.

No driving during this window unless accompanied by a licensed, experienced driver (at least 21 years old with 3 years of driving), or traveling to or from work, an official school activity, an organized volunteer program, or an athletic event or training.

03 PHONES & DEVICES

No wireless communication device use, including hands-free use.

04 SAFETY BELTS

The driver and every passenger must use a seat belt or child safety seat.

05 ALCOHOL

No measurable alcohol in the driver’s system.

Age 18+: alcohol restrictions

UNDER 21

No measurable alcohol may be present in the driver's system.

AGE 21+

The driver must follow Maryland's impaired-driving laws.

source separates these adult alcohol rules from the additional restrictions listed for drivers under 18.

Breaking a provisional-license restriction

1 year

Passenger-restriction suspension

1 year

Nighttime-restriction suspension

Possible suspension

Phone/device use: 90 days

ALCOHOL RESTRICTION

1st	Ignition interlock or 6-month suspension
2nd	License revoked

Moving violations: first offense and after

ANY PROVISIONAL DRIVER

FIRST OFFENSE

Driver Improvement Program

Points and fines may also apply.

AGE THRESHOLD [CONFIRM]

Source reads “18 years or older” on one line and “under 18” on the next.

2nd	30-day suspension
3rd+	180-day suspension

Under 18: the sanctions escalate

02	SECOND OFFENSE 30-day suspension	Afterward: driving limited to work or school for 90 days.
03	THIRD OFFENSE Young Driver Improvement Program + 180-day suspension	Afterward: driving limited to work or school for 180 days.
04	FOURTH OFFENSE + License revoked	All driving tests must be retaken for reinstatement.

Other consequences

5+ POINTS IN 12 MONTHS

6 months
First time

12 months
Every subsequent time

HIGH-RISK DRIVING CONVICTION

Speeding Racing
Reckless Aggressive
Negligent

6 months
First offense

1 year
Subsequent offense

PARENTAL NOTIFICATION

UNDER 18

When a new driver is cited for a moving violation, MVA notifies the adult who co-signed the application.

Getting the full license

18

CLEAN MONTHS

A conviction or PBJ restarts the clock from the date you were convicted or given PBJ, or from restoration after a suspension or revocation.

ELIGIBILITY

18+	At least 18 years old
18 months	Held provisional license at least 18 months
No convictions	During those 18 months
Under 21	No alcohol-related offenses

After the eighteen months

AUTOMATIC CONVERSION

MVA converts the license automatically and mails an attachment card. Carry it with the provisional license until the license expires.

NEW TO MARYLAND

Licensed for fewer than 18 months → provisional for the remaining time.

Example: 12 months already held → 6 months provisional.

12:00 - 12:30 — THIRTY MINU

Lunch



AFTERNOON · 12:30 – 1:20

Medical Advisory Board

Dr. C.



PENDING FACULTY INPUT

Materials to come

Dr. [redacted] is confirmed for this session and will adapt an existing presentation.

Intended coverage: fitness to drive; physical and cognitive limitations; referral sources; reportable conditions; who must or may refer; the review process and materials considered; fitness or next-step determinations; and Board recommendations.

Two case studies on older or vulnerable drivers are in preparation. Placement is open.

Nothing on this page is a statement of law or procedure. Dr. [redacted] owns the substance.

1:20 – 1:30 — TEN MINU

Break





AFTERNOON · 1:30 – 2:45

Masking and CDL Implications

Hon.

PENDING FACULTY INPUT

Materials pending

Hon. [redacted] is confirmed for this session.

[redacted] sent deck is filed in the Source Bank for reference.

Slides for this section will be built once material is reviewed and approved for 2026.

Afternoon Application

2:45–2:47	Frame the exercise Hon. J.
2:47–2:56	Round one · the first issue from the bench Hon. J.
2:56–3:07	Round two · the driving record and program options Ms. then Hon.
3:07–3:16	Round three · the commercial license Hon. J.
3:16–3:20	What changed as the facts arrived Hon.

One case, three rounds. If the day runs long, round three is the one to drop.

3:20–3:30 P.M. • 10 MINUTES

Wrap-Up & Q&A

Hon. [redacted]