



January 30, 2009

TO: Clerks of Court

FROM: Dana Reiding, Chief *Dana Reiding*  
Bureau of Records  
Division of Driver Licenses

RE: Election to Attend Driver Improvement

Effective February 1, 2009, drivers who elect to attend a Basic Driver Improvement (BDI) course in lieu of points on their driver record are no longer eligible for an 18% reduction in the civil penalty. As you know, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles approves the BDI curricula and conducts periodic effectiveness studies of each BDI course in order to ensure that BDI courses have a significant positive effect on driver safety.

Although the Department's effectiveness studies show that a BDI course can have a positive effect on driver safety by reducing crashes and traffic violations, less than one fourth of drivers who receive citations elect to attend a BDI course.

To encourage drivers with moving violations to attend BDI courses, Florida law provides the following benefits to drivers making this election:

- 1) Points are not assessed to the driver record, adjudication of guilt is withheld, and safe driver status is maintained.
- 2) Insurance rates cannot increase and the driver's policy cannot be canceled because of this violation, unless the violation was a result of a crash where the driver was at fault.
- 3) Effective October 1, 2008, a driver may now elect to attend a BDI course in lieu of points up to five times in a 10-year period, instead of five times in a lifetime.

In an effort to increase awareness of this option, please feel free to include a link on your website to our Department's driver improvement web page, <http://www.flhsmv.gov/ddl/bdis.html>.

Please visit our web site at [www.flhsmv.gov/courts](http://www.flhsmv.gov/courts) for other reference materials. If you have any questions, please email [court-assist@flhsmv.gov](mailto:court-assist@flhsmv.gov) or call Alicia Armstrong at (850) 617-2571.