

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

## Dear Valued Client

As you may have already heard, there have been some recent changes to the Road Traffic Act and Road Traffic Regulations which have been passed into Law.

We would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to some of the pertinent details which may have an impact on you and your loved ones as you use the highways and byways.

In addition to the attached summary, we have also made the full Amendments available for download on our website at the following links:

## ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

- All private vehicles 10 years and older must be taken to the Licensing Authority for an annual inspection. **(Regulation 14A)**
- A helmet with a fastened chinstrap must be worn at all times by bicyclists and motorcyclists. Parents and guardians must not knowingly allow children under the age of 16 years old to ride a bicycle or motorcycle without a helmet or fastened chinstrap. **(Regulation 117A)**
- The holding or use of a cellular phone while driving or operating a vehicle is strictly prohibited. The use of earpieces or headsets is also not allowed. Anyone found guilty may be fined \$2,000.00 or face a prison sentence of 18 months or both. The use of a hands free device is allowed. **(Regulation 148 & 148A-148D)**
- The holding or use of portable electronic devices while driving or operating a vehicle is strictly prohibited. Any person found guilty may be fined \$2,000.00 or face imprisonment for 18 months or both. **(Regulation 148B)**

## ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2017-26

- All manufacturers of registration number plates must be registered with the Licensing Authority. **(Section 10E)**
- Drivers should have in their possession at all times their Driver's Licence or Identification Card. Failure to provide either of them, the Driver will have 24 hours to do so at the stated police station. A person who does not comply and is found guilty may be fined \$1,000.00 or imprisoned for a term of 12 months or both. **(Section 74)**
- No person should drive or operate a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs to an extent where the person is incapable of having proper control of the motor vehicle or to the extent that they have consumed alcohol in such a quantity that it exceeds the prescribed limit of a breathalyzer or blood test.
  - For a first time conviction, the person found guilty may be disqualified from holding or obtaining a driving licence from the date of conviction for a period of 12 months. The person may also be fined \$5,000.00 or imprisoned for 2 years or both.
  - Any person found guilty on a second occasion may be disqualified from holding or obtaining a driving licence from the date of conviction for a period of 5 years. The person may also be fined \$10,000.00 or imprisoned for a term of 5 years or both.
  - Any person found guilty on subsequent occasions may be permanently disqualified from holding or obtaining a driving licence. The person may also be fined \$10,000.00 or imprisoned for a term of 5 years or both. **(Section 85)**
- A Police Officer in uniform may require a person to undergo a breathalyzer test where he reasonably suspects:
  - i. that a person was driving or attempting to drive with alcohol in his breath in excess of the prescribed limit; or
  - ii. where the person has committed a traffic offence while the vehicle was in motion.Failure to cooperate will lead to the prosecution of the person and may be subject to a fine of \$1,000.00 or to a prison sentence of 6 months or both. **(Section 85B)**
- A blood test may be required by Police Officers in circumstances where it is not practicable to use a breathalyzer device or where for medical reasons the person under investigation cannot take the breathalyzer test. **(Section 85E)**
  - The "prescribed limit" as described is as follows:
    - a) 35 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath
    - b) 80 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood
    - c) 107 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of urine **(Section 85I)**
- Parking is NOT allowed in a designated parking space for disabled parking unless a valid disabled parking permit is prominently displayed. Parking is also NOT allowed close to a dropped kerb which facilitates the movement of persons with disabilities. A person found guilty may be fined \$500.00. **(Section 88A)**



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