

Attention: Mr. Wagner

1) Why does the RMV have rights but not responsibilities? Where can the driving school owners get professional help on how to improve their business, teaching methods and curriculums? The RMV does not have a standardized curriculum in effect. Why does every school have a different curriculum and teaching methods for driver education? The state does not know, what to teach and how to teach (Driving Education instructors curriculum does not exist at all).

2) You mention that this is a free country and that everyone has the opportunity to open a new business. This may be true, but some professions require advanced educational degrees such as engineers, doctors and attorneys. I understand that an instructor should have at least an associates degree and owners of a driving school must have at least a bachelor degree and be competency tested on their knowledge of sociology and psychiatry to instruct to run a driving school, plus, some experience working in the field. They should also be re-certified after a period of years to insure their industry knowledge is current. These requirements should also apply to the field inspectors who monitor driving schools. This is a very serious profession. Ask the relatives of the 424 persons killed last year in traffic accidents. Do you realize that is almost the number of US troops killed in Iraq last year?

3) It also makes sense that driving schools be linked to the ALARS system for booking road tests. There are well over 50,000 road tests booked a year and I've spent many hours on the phone waiting to book road test appointments. I have a limit of three I can book at a time without having to call back to book another three, etc. It would save both the RMV and myself a great deal of time and money, for telephone personnel, if schools could do this on line. After all, auto dealerships, insurance companies and inspection stations now have a connection to the RMV. Why not auto schools?

4) Before obtaining their permit, a student should be required to complete the 30 hours of classroom work and then obtain their driving permit. Secondly, they should complete observation and only and then begin behind the wheel instruction. Upon the completion of behind the wheel instruction, the school can issue a request to the RMV for the driver education certificate. The student should spend an additional six months of practice driving techniques, in all conditions, with the parents before taking the road test for their license. We cannot rely on a second best driving education system here in Massachusetts, as evidenced so tragically by the recent deaths of two sixteen year olds in Plymouth. We do authorize students to drive first then send them to driving schools.

5) Permit tests are a joke! Only ten questions are asked and they haven't changed in twenty years, no matter the language they are printed in. The RMV might just as well hand a permit to anyone who walks through the door. I believe all permit tests should be increased in difficulty to at least twenty-five questions and be administered by computer, randomly selected from a database of two hundred questions.

6) Factually, some State Troopers are conducting 5-minute road tests that do not fully test a new driver's capabilities. I believe licenses are being issued too easily, some to unqualified persons.

7) The RMV must enter into the ALARS system the name of the school from which the student received their drivers education. This is to collect data for quality control of driver education and develop a comprehensive record of highway safety statistics for specific driving schools. Furthermore, these statistics should be calculated at least monthly and be published on the RMV's web site as an aid to parents in selecting a driving school for their child. Notably, statistics should include driving schools by code numbers, a coding key, the number of students certified and an accumulated accident record of graduates by school up to the most current school year.

8) You mentioned that High Schools take business away from driving schools but this is not true. I would say the reverse is true because of crowded classes, waiting periods and poor educational curriculums. We are in this business!!!!

9) All senior citizens should be competency tested for a renewal license every five years beginning on the first renewal date after the age of 65.

10) To get a gun permit requires mandatory education. Why, because guns are designed to kill? More people are dying per year from motor vehicle accidents, however, than from registered guns. Driving education must be mandatory in the state of Massachusetts, no matter the age of the driver. People don't get smarter with age, and some foreigners obtain licenses without even speaking the language. Cars are designed transport people, but we have more fatalities from motor vehicles than guns, 424 to 24 last year.

11) Driving schools should be monitored by the Department of Education(so instructor must be part of the teachers union) as well as the Department of transportation. The Dept. of Education or the RMV should standardize the students and instructors curriculum and monitor the level and quality of education so that it is uniform in both quality and content through out the state, i.e., the same in Plymouth or Pittsfield. What does a field RMV inspector know about the method and technique of proper educational instructions? As you mention driver ED is not "beauty salon or plumbing and heating Co". We should consider driving education with deadly seriousness. It is a knowledge that we will use for a lifetime, however long that is. Hopefully, if we've gotten a good driver education, it will be for a very long time. I feel very strongly that if our driver education had been better, we might have reduced the 424 driving fatalities last year. The key

to reducing this highway carnage is education. Automobiles don't cause accidents, people do. We need to have a sort of Department of Education specific to driving schools and owners with the RMV inspectors monitoring student attendance.

12) However RMV has been tremendously improve their business, but it still done very litter torts driving school sector. It's time for the legislature to enable the RMV and driving schools to move into the 21st century. The records of most businesses, small or enormous, including the RMV, are computerized, not hand printed or written in ink. So should driving school records, except for possibly weekly attendance sheets. Perhaps it is the intention of the RMV and the legislature to make it impossible for growth in the driving school industry. I believe the law, "must be printed in ink and legible in English", (C. 90, s. 32G), severely restricts the growth and unjustly requires schools to keep handwritten records not required by other companies or corporations. The law does not say, however, that the records be "HAND WRITTEN" in ink, as the RMV field inspectors require. They don't care if it is easy to conduct this business by a "Grand fathers law". Driving schools must also have journals and classroom rosters (CMR 540 23.00) in writing (instructors ledgers). Alternatively, student cards can be printed in printer. The law was changed in 1997 and you must not have had the time to look over the law. The field inspector will see written and printed journals, student attendance cards and a ledger of classroom and behind the wheel instructional records. "All driving schools shall comply with the guidelines established by the Registrar for the form, content and retention period of written business, class and instructional records." (CMR 540 23.00) This is the law, not what I say.

13) The way the legislature has designed the laws; it is difficult for the driving school owners to protect themselves from independent operators who book appointments for adults without ever being licensed by RMV. The RMV is negligent and has no control over the situation and the trooper in charge doesn't recognize the many return trips these people make. We know the unlicensed independent operators are just there for the money. Entering the registration and driver license number on the yellow form, which is turned in by the State trooper, may prevent this abuse. ALARS will automatically pick up a plate or driver license used more than once a year if not a licensed driving school vehicle.

14) Every day, unqualified drivers are being put on the roads of Massachusetts by unethical driving schools, motivated by money, not the safety and quality level of their students driving skills. The RMV is in part responsible for this crime against humanity by not having a more comprehensive driver education program in place. The sooner we realize this, more life's we will save. I have the right to expect that my self and my family will be as safe as possible from all drivers on the road coming toward me.

15) You mentioned during our last conversation that unpaid child support could result in a license suspension. Why? It has nothing to do with a person's ability to drive. We have enough responsibilities now with taxes for property, income and sales tax on purchases, to say nothing of social security. Its just another way for the state to control our lives and, I have moved from Soviet Union and I know what that is!

16) I personally don't believe in the force of power. People must respect the law by the conscious understanding of the law. Education is a serious matter. Perception, affects your consciousness, consciousness improves your being. So we will truly raise children, which understand the harmony of life. By revoking licenses, we initiate people's hate and anger. In a society in which people start to feel their lives separated from government, which is automatically building its own regime. This is Socialism, when government is conducting your life and tells you what to do and how to live your life.

17) I believe that we owe our children the best education we can afford and that goes for a driving education also. The Driving School Network Association software system is designed to address an individuals' educational and psychological profile and personalize a curriculum for them with targeted education. I believe the DSNA monitored personalized educational system is the best in the world and will sooner or later teach billions of students around the world, saving untold numbers of lives.