

Stop Driving to Obstruct Traffic

Driving to obstruct traffic constitutes extremely bad and dangerous conduct that causes serious traffic accidents.

When operating a vehicle, the driver must maintain sufficient distance from other vehicles as they drive at a safe speed and in a safe manner, paying due care to vehicles around them, as well as avoid unnecessary braking, unreasonable changes of course, and other dangerous actions

1 Establishing Driving to obstruct Crimes

Penal provisions for obstructing traffic were set forth in 2020. In the provisions, a sudden brake violation or violation of maintaining safe distance from other vehicles for the purpose of obstructing the passage of other vehicles and streetcars is subject to strict control that imposes a maximum sentence of 3 years' imprisonment.

A driver who obstructs traffic and thereby causes an extreme traffic hazard is sentenced to imprisonment for a maximum of 5 years.

The driver's license of the person who drove to obstruct traffic is also revoked.

Penal provisions and administrative disposition on driving to obstruct traffic

(1) Driving to obstruct (risk of danger to traffic)

In the case of regular violations with the objective of obstructing the passage of other vehicles or streetcars by means likely to cause danger to traffic on roads for the other vehicles

Imprisonment not to exceed 3 years or a fine of not more than 500,000 yen

Number of basic points: 25

Revocation of license (2 years without license *Maximum 5 years with previous history or accumulated points)

(2) Driving to obstruct (extreme traffic hazard)

Committing a crime referred to in (1) above that causes another motor vehicle on a national expressway or limited highway to stop, and thereby causes extreme traffic hazards on other roads

Imprisonment not to exceed 5 years or a fine of not more than 1 million yen

Number of basic points: 35

Revocation of license (3 years without license *Maximum 10 years with previous history or

accumulated points)

Regular violations (10 violation types that qualify as driving to obstruct)

- Violation of Traffic Distribution
- Violation of Prohibition on Sudden Braking
- Failure to Maintain Distance between Vehicles
- Violation of Prohibition on Changing Course
- Improper Overtaking
- Violation of Light Reduction Obligations
- Violation of Restriction on Use of Horn
- Violation of Safe Driving Obligations
- Violation of Minimum Speed (National Highways)
- Violation of Parking and Stopping on National Highways

2 Active use of 110 calls from a safe location and drive recorders

In the event of obstructed driving, evacuate to a service area, parking area, or other location where there is no chance of causing a traffic accident. Remain inside the vehicle, and do not hesitate to call 110.

A drive recorder is also effective at controlling bad-quality or dangerous driving because it records the actions taken in driving. Mount and effectively use a drive recorder to protect you in the event of an accident or trouble.

3 Safe driving: Being Considerate and Making Concessions

When driving a vehicle, you must give due care to such things as the movement of other vehicles around you and be willing to consider things from the perspective of other people and make concessions.

Furthermore, to prevent traffic accidents, it is necessary to maintain safe speeds and distance between vehicles so that you will not collide with the vehicle in front of you even if it stops suddenly.

Driving a motor vehicle by observing correct traffic rules makes it possible for people to travel safely and comfortably.