SG Bullets 7 days for: *FirstName LastName, CA to FirstName LastName, MLA Constituency*
Issue: *Ignition Interlock Program*
Branch: *ABC*
CLIFF number: *686694*
Cross Reference (if applicable): *NA*

NOTE: The original process, at four pages, it still did not include the driver file information or the required next steps.

Request: Constituent Mx. Driver is seeking assistance from his MLA with regaining his licence back. Specifically, he is requesting medical exemption from his requirement to participate in the Ignition Interlock Program (IIP).

Background (Constituent Perspective): Constituent Mx. Driver is requesting his MLA's assistance with regaining his driver's licence back. Mx. Driver is requesting reconsideration of his extended enrolment in the IIP, on the basis of he has asthma and COPD, and shares that ABC will not communicate with him. The MLA is asking on Mx. Driver's behalf:

- Has Mx. Driver received a response to his August 6, 2024 letter?
- Is his suspended driver's licence as a result of his inability to use the breathalyzer, or is it due to other factors?
- Is there an alternative form of Smart Start device that would rely on a different measuring method other than a breathalyzer for people who have respiratory difficulties like COPD?

Context:

- The Ignition Interlock Program is a remedial program for drivers who have received alcohol-related driving prohibitions.

- ABC honours outstanding remedial program requirements from other provinces. This includes the Responsible Driver Program (RDP) and the Ignition Interlock Program (IIP).

- Smart Start Canada is the service provider for the IIP in B.C.

- The Ignition Interlock Device requires a small amount of breath which most people can provide, including those with chronic medical conditions. While medical exceptions are rare, in B.C., a medical practitioner can complete a Request for Medical Exemption from the IIP form, if, in their medical opinion, that a driver has a medical condition that prevents them from providing enough air to use the ignition interlock device (IID).

- Medical exemptions from the IIP are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

File Summary:

- On August 23, 2018, ABC sent a letter to Mx. Driver advising he's required to participate in the IIP in order to obtain a B.C. driver's licence. The letter outlined the steps to fulfill his requirement in the IIP, which included information about his Alberta driving record:
    - His Alberta driving record shows that his licensing status is "Denied" and that he has an outstanding remedial requirement to have an ignition interlock device on his vehicle.
    - ABC honours outstanding remedial and/or licensing requirements from other provinces or jurisdictions; therefore, he will not be able to obtain a B.C. driver's licence until any outstanding requirements in Alberta are met.

- On March 10, 2021, ABC sent a letter to Mx. Driver advising that his Remedial Program Referral – Application for Reconsideration has been received. He was advised that there is no reconsideration of his IIP requirement available through ABC as the requirements originate in Alberta.

- On April 14, 2021, ABC sent a letter to Mx. Driver in response to his enquiry about obtaining a British Columbia driver's licence. He was again provided with the steps required to obtain a licence.

- On January 21, 2022, ABC wrote to Mx. Driver about his participation in the IIP. The letter stated that:
    - Upon review of his file, it was noted that he had not had an ignition interlock device installed on his vehicle.
    - Furthermore, ABC received a police report dated January 12, 2022 indicating that Mx. Driver was pulled over while driving without a valid licence, in a vehicle which was not equipped with an ignition interlock device.
    - Given the circumstances, Mx. Driver 's referral to the IIP was extended by an additional six months. He must now participate in the IIP for a total of 18 months.
    - He was advised that he may apply to ABC for a reconsideration of the decision to extend his IIP term by six months to 18 months.

- On March 16, 2023, ABC wrote to Mx. Driver noting that he had not had an interlock device installed on his vehicle. The letter also stated that:
    - A police report dated March 3, 2023 indicates he was pulled over while driving without a valid driver's licence, in a vehicle which was not equipped with an ignition interlock device.
    - In light of the circumstances, his referral to the IIP was extended by an additional six months. He must now participate in the IIP for a total of 24 months.

- On April 13, 2023, ABC wrote to Mx. Driver advising that while he had proceeded to have an ignition interlock device installed on his vehicle on April 11, 2023, he had not obtained a new interlock-restricted driver's licence. Any time spent with a functioning interlock device, but without a conditional driver's licence, will not count towards time served in the IIP.

- On February 5, 2024, ABC wrote to Mx. Driver . The letter stated that:
    - He failed to keep his appointment for scheduled servicing on November 10, 2023. His vehicle entered a Permanent Lockout condition, effectively disabling the vehicle in which it's installed.
    - He must contact Smart Start to arrange to have his vehicle serviced.
    - As his driver's licence is conditional upon his participation in the IIP, he was advised his driver's licence was cancelled effective the date of the letter. This means he may not drive and is required to turn in his driver's licence at any XYZ driver licensing office.
    - Mx. Driver was advised that his driver's licence would remain cancelled until he has an ignition interlock device installed and re-activated and issued a new restricted driver's licence by XYZ. He will then have 18 months remaining on his IIP.

- On August 12, 2024, ABC wrote to Mx. Driver advising that as his driver's licence is conditional upon his participation in the IIP, it has been cancelled effective the date of this letter. The letter also stated that:
    - His conditional driver's licence will remain cancelled until he has the ignition interlock device re-installed on his vehicle.
    - He must then visit an XYZ driver licensing office to re-apply for a new conditional driver's licence showing restriction 06 Ignition Interlock required.
    - Any time spent without a functioning interlock device installed on his vehicle, and without a valid conditional driver's licence, will not count towards his 12-month interlock term.

- On November 19, 2024, ABC wrote to Mx. Driver regarding his submission dated August 6, 2014, requesting that ABC reconsider the extension of his IIP term. Mx. Driver was advised that:
    - He's required to complete his 12-month extended IIP term from Alberta.
    - To regain his driving privileges, he must have an interlock device installed in any vehicle he'll be driving and obtain an interlock-restricted driver's licence.
    - His conditional driver's licence will remain cancelled until these outstanding requirements have been met.

- As of February 10, 2026, Mx. Driver 's conditional driver's licence remains cancelled.

Next Steps / Response for Constituent

- Mx. Driver must satisfy the Alberta ignition interlock requirement before he will be eligible to apply for a B.C. driver's licence.
- To satisfy the ignition interlock requirement, he must have an interlock device installed in any vehicle he'll be driving. He must also obtain an interlock-restricted driver's licence and complete the outstanding 12-month term.
- We need a bullet here that tells him about the process to gain a B.C. driver's licence after his IIP term is completed.
- There is no alternative Smart Start device that uses alternate testing methods for people with respiratory conditions such as asthma or COPD.
- Medical exemptions from the ignition interlock program are available and assessed on a case-by-case basis. If a driver has a chronic medical condition that prevents them from providing enough air to use the ignition interlock device, they may be eligible for an exemption of their IIP requirement.
    - To initiate this process, drivers must contact Smart Start Canada to arrange an installation appointment.
    - If they are unable to operate the device at the required volume of breath, they will need to contact ABC at 1-855-387-7747 and ask for a Request for Medical Exemption Form.
    - **Note:** The medical information on the exemption form must be provided by a licensed medical practitioner (Physician) and all sections (Patient Information and Medical Information) must be completed for the exemption form to be considered.
    - A driver is notified in writing when their exemption form has been reviewed and a decision has been made. Until further notice, registration and participation in the IIP remains a condition of keeping their driver's licence and/or regaining driving privileges.

Please review questions above and answer here - we are missing answers to Mx. Driver's questions