

Effective 5/7/2025

23A-4-1106 Suspension of license or permit privileges -- Suspension of certificates of registration.

- (1) As used in this section:
 - (a) "License or permit privileges" means the privilege of applying for, purchasing, and exercising the benefits conferred by a license or permit issued by the division.
 - (b) "Livestock guardian dog" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-6-111.
- (2) A hearing officer, appointed by the division, may suspend a person's license or permit privileges if:
 - (a) in a court of law, the person:
 - (i) is convicted of:
 - (A) violating this title or a rule of the Wildlife Board;
 - (B) killing or injuring domestic livestock or a livestock guardian dog while engaged in an activity regulated under this title;
 - (C) violating Section 76-6-111; or
 - (D) violating Section 76-11-209 while engaged in an activity regulated under this title;
 - (ii) enters into a plea in abeyance agreement, in which the person pleads guilty or no contest to an offense listed in Subsection (2)(a)(i), and the plea is held in abeyance; or
 - (iii) is charged with committing an offense listed in Subsection (2)(a)(i), and the person enters into a diversion agreement which suspends the prosecution of the offense; and
 - (b) the hearing officer determines the person committed the offense intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly, as defined in Section 76-2-103.
- (3)
 - (a) The Wildlife Board shall make rules establishing guidelines that a hearing officer shall consider in determining:
 - (i) the type of license or permit privileges to suspend; and
 - (ii) the duration of the suspension.
 - (b) The Wildlife Board shall ensure that the guidelines established under Subsection (3)(a) are consistent with Subsections (4), (5), and (6).
- (4) Except as provided in Subsections (5) and (6), a hearing officer may suspend a person's license or permit privileges according to Subsection (2) for a period of time not to exceed:
 - (a) seven years for:
 - (i) a felony conviction;
 - (ii) a plea of guilty or no contest to an offense punishable as a felony, which plea is held in abeyance pursuant to a plea in abeyance agreement; or
 - (iii) being charged with an offense punishable as a felony, the prosecution of which is suspended pursuant to a diversion agreement;
 - (b) five years for:
 - (i) a class A misdemeanor conviction;
 - (ii) a plea of guilty or no contest to an offense punishable as a class A misdemeanor, which plea is held in abeyance pursuant to a plea in abeyance agreement; or
 - (iii) being charged with an offense punishable as a class A misdemeanor, the prosecution of which is suspended pursuant to a diversion agreement;
 - (c) three years for:
 - (i) a class B misdemeanor conviction;
 - (ii) a plea of guilty or no contest to an offense punishable as a class B misdemeanor when the plea is held in abeyance according to a plea in abeyance agreement; or

- (iii) being charged with an offense punishable as a class B misdemeanor, the prosecution of which is suspended pursuant to a diversion agreement; and
- (d) one year for:
 - (i) a class C misdemeanor conviction;
 - (ii) a plea of guilty or no contest to an offense punishable as a class C misdemeanor, when the plea is held in abeyance according to a plea in abeyance agreement; or
 - (iii) being charged with an offense punishable as a class C misdemeanor, the prosecution of which is suspended according to a diversion agreement.
- (5) The hearing officer may double a suspension period established in Subsection (4) for offenses:
 - (a) committed in violation of an existing suspension or revocation order issued by the courts, division, or Wildlife Board; or
 - (b) involving the unlawful taking of a trophy animal, as defined in Section 23A-1-101.
- (6)
 - (a) A hearing officer may suspend, according to Subsection (2), a person's license or permit privileges for a particular license or permit only once for each single criminal episode, as defined in Section 76-1-401.
 - (b) If a hearing officer addresses two or more single criminal episodes in a hearing, the suspension periods of license or permit privileges of the same type suspended, according to Subsection (2), may run consecutively.
 - (c) If a hearing officer suspends, according to Subsection (2), license or permit privileges of the type that have been previously suspended by a court, a hearing officer, or the Wildlife Board and the suspension period has not expired, the suspension periods may run consecutively.
- (7)
 - (a) A hearing officer, appointed by the division, may suspend a person's privilege of applying for, purchasing, and exercising the benefits conferred by a certificate of registration if:
 - (i) the hearing officer determines the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly, as defined in Section 76-2-103, violated:
 - (A) this title;
 - (B) a rule or order of the Wildlife Board;
 - (C) the terms of a certificate of registration; or
 - (D) the terms of a certificate of registration application or agreement; or
 - (ii) the person, in a court of law:
 - (A) is convicted of an offense that the hearing officer determines bears a reasonable relationship to the person's ability to safely and responsibly perform the activities authorized by the certificate of registration;
 - (B) pleads guilty or no contest to an offense that the hearing officer determines bears a reasonable relationship to the person's ability to safely and responsibly perform the activities authorized by the certificate of registration, and the plea is held in abeyance in accordance with a plea in abeyance agreement; or
 - (C) is charged with an offense that the hearing officer determines bears a reasonable relationship to the person's ability to safely and responsibly perform the activities authorized by the certificate of registration, and prosecution of the offense is suspended in accordance with a diversion agreement.
 - (b) A hearing officer shall suspend a certificate of registration for the harvesting of brine shrimp eggs, as defined in Section 59-23-3, if the hearing officer determines the holder of the certificate of registration has violated Section 59-23-5.
- (8)

- (a) The director shall appoint a qualified person as a hearing officer to perform the adjudicative functions provided in this section.
 - (b) The director may not appoint a division employee who investigates or enforces wildlife violations.
- (9)
- (a) The courts may suspend, in criminal sentencing, a person's privilege to apply for, purchase, or exercise the benefits conferred by a license, permit, or certificate of registration.
 - (b) The courts shall promptly notify the division of suspension orders or recommendations entered.
 - (c) The division, upon receiving notification of suspension from the courts, shall prohibit the person from applying for, purchasing, or exercising the benefits conferred by a license, permit, or certification of registration for the duration and of the type specified in the court order.
 - (d) The hearing officer shall consider a recommendation made by a sentencing court concerning suspension before issuing a suspension order.
- (10) Before suspension under this section, the division shall give a person:
- (a) written notice of action the division intends to take; and
 - (b) an opportunity for a hearing.
- (11)
- (a) A person may file an appeal of a hearing officer's decision with the Wildlife Board.
 - (b) The Wildlife Board shall review the hearing officer's findings and conclusions and any written documentation submitted at the hearing.
 - (c) The Wildlife Board may:
 - (i) take no action;
 - (ii) vacate or remand the decision; or
 - (iii) amend the period or type of suspension.
- (12) The division shall suspend and reinstate all hunting, fishing, trapping, and falconry privileges consistent with Chapter 2, Part 5, Wildlife Violator Compact.
- (13) Within 30 days after the day on which an individual's privilege to hunt or fish is suspended under this title, the division shall report to the Division of Professional Licensing the:
- (a) identifying information for the individual; and
 - (b) time period of the suspension.
- (14) The Wildlife Board may make rules to implement this section in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

Amended by Chapter 173, 2025 General Session

Amended by Chapter 208, 2025 General Session