

DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE ON A HIGHWAY WHILE LICENSE HAS BEEN
SUSPENDED OR REVOKED. G.S. 20-28. MISDEMEANOR.

The defendant has been charged with driving a motor vehicle
on a highway while his driver's license was [suspended]
[revoked].

For you to find the defendant guilty of this offense, the
State must prove three things beyond a reasonable doubt:

First, that the defendant drove a motor vehicle.

Second, that he drove the motor vehicle on a highway.

And Third, that at the time he was driving the motor
vehicle, his driver's license was [suspended] [revoked]. The
defendant must have had knowledge of the revocation at the time
he was driving the motor vehicle.¹

In order for you to find that notice of the [suspension]
[revocation] was given, of which the defendant had knowledge,
[the State must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that notice of
the [suspension] [revocation] was personally delivered to the
defendant]² [the State must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that
the defendant surrendered his license to (*name official*) of the

¹While a specific intent is not an element of the offense of operating a
motor vehicle on a highway while one's license is suspended or revoked, the
burden is on the State to prove that defendant had knowledge at the time
charged that his operator's license was suspended or revoked; the State
satisfies this burden when, nothing else appearing, it has offered evidence of
compliance with the notice requirements of G.S. 20-48 because of the
presumption that he received notice and had such knowledge. However, when
there is some evidence to rebut this presumption, the issue of guilty
knowledge is raised and must be determined by the jury under appropriate
instruction from the trial court. State v. Chester, 30 N.C. App. 224 (1976).

²See G.S. 20-48, Notice.

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(*name court*) (*name date*)]³ [the State must prove three things
beyond a reasonable doubt:

First, that notice was deposited in the United States mail
at least four days before the alleged driving of a motor vehicle
by the defendant.

Second, that the notice was mailed in an envelope with
postage prepaid.

And Third, that the envelope was addressed to the defendant
at his address as shown by the records of the Department of Motor
Vehicles.

Proof beyond a reasonable doubt that the State complied with
the three requirements of the notice provisions permits, but does
not compel you to find that defendant received the notice and
thereby acquired knowledge of the [suspension] [revocation]. The
State must prove the essential elements of the charge, including
the defendant's knowledge of the [suspension] [revocation], from
the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt.⁴

If you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that
on or about the alleged date, the defendant drove a motor vehicle
on a highway, while his driver's license was [suspended]
[revoked]; and that the defendant knew on that date that his
license was [suspended] [revoked] because [notice of the

³See G.S. 20-24(a), effective when license turned in.

⁴See G.S. 20-48; State v. Atwood, 290 N.C. 266, 271.
If defendant contends that he changed his address, see G.S. 20-7.1.

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[suspension] [revocation] was personally delivered to the
defendant] [the defendant surrendered his license to (name
official) of the (name court) on (name date)] [at least four days
before the alleged offense the Department of Motor Vehicles
deposited notice of the [suspension] [revocation] in the United
States mail in an envelope with postage prepaid and addressed to
the defendant at his address as shown by the records of the
Department] then it would be your duty to return a verdict of
guilty. If you do not so find or if you have a reasonable doubt
as to one or more of these things, it would be your duty to
return a verdict of not guilty.

