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Regulating & Ensuring Compliance in the For-Hire Vehicle Industry



WHAT IS DFHY?

The Department of For-Hire Vehicles regulates public and private for-hire industry in DC to ensure passenger safety, fair pricing, and legal compliance. We protect passenger and driver rights to ensure equity as we promote the viability of the industry.



DFHV'S MISSION

DFHV is committed to protecting the public interest by regulating the vehicle-for-hire industry to allow the residents and visitors of the District of Columbia to have safe, affordable, and accessible transportation options. However, DFHV has limited regulation on private vehicles for hire.



- Taxis
- Ride Hailing Services (Uber, Lyft and others)
- Limousines & Private Car Services
- Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (Transport DC and Vets ride)

WHY REGULATIONS ARE IMPORTANT?

Regulations play a critical role in ensuring the for-hire vehicle industry operates safely and efficiently. Background checks, vehicle inspections and insurance requirements are conducted on public-for hire drivers (DC taxi and Limousine operators) This does not include TNC's. Transportation Network Companies (Uber, Lyft, etc.) conduct their own background checks on their drivers. These regulations help to prevent fraud, overcharging, and unsafe operations.



LICENSED VS. NON-LICENSED FOR-HIRE DRIVERS

- Licensed drivers are regulated by the DFHV regulations, ensuring passenger safety, fair pricing, and compliance with local laws. These drivers work for taxi companies, and other for-hire vehicle services.
- Illegal or "courtesy" drivers are individuals who provide transportation services without proper licensing, insurance, and regulatory approval. These drivers often solicit passengers offering rides in private vehicles.





CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH COURTESY DRIVERS

Lack of Licensing & Regulation

Drivers that operate without a DFHV-issued license, poses risk to passenger safety

Passenger safety risks

There is no formal vetting process, making it difficult to verify drivers history, qualifications, or criminal background

No Insurance

Protection

In the event of an accident, passengers may be left without recourse if drivers are not insured.

Legal

Consequences

Drivers risk fines, vehicle impoundment, and other legal penalties



