

Judge Rules Revoking Driver's License Due To Unpaid Court Fees As Unconstitutional

By Kimberly Davis, NewsChannel5

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. - It's unconstitutional to revoke someone's license simply because they don't have the funds to pay it, that's what one federal judge ruled Monday and now more than 100 thousand people can start the process of regaining their drivers license.

"Suddenly the judge with the stroke of a pen, has empowered people to be able to go to work, to be able to get jobs," said David Raybin, Raybin & Weissman, P.C.

U.S. District Judge Aleta Trauger has given tens of thousands of people the opportunity to legally get behind the wheel again, if they didn't have the cash to pay for their court fees.

"Indigents cannot lose their driver's license for failing to pay court fees or taxes or that sort of thing," said Raybin.

Raybin says this ruling is very narrow and only effects certain Tennesseans.

"It's for people who are so poor they don't have the funds to pay their litigation taxes, or court cost or fines," he said.

So if you are not below the poverty line, and do not pay your court fees, your drivers license will still be revoked.

"It unfortunately effects too many people who have no ability to pay at all, and therefor they're breaking the law by driving a car at all. It's backwards legislation," said Raybin.

This decision comes after a federal lawsuit was filed by two men who sued the state over the law, and now more than 100 thousand people think that U.S district judge, got it right.

"I think she absolutely got it right, and I think if the higher courts looks at this they'll say that she got it right," said Raybin.