What are driver record abstracts?  
Driver record abstracts are computer-generated copies of DMV’s driver records. Most driver record entries are retained for the preceding five years; however, certain convictions can result in a driver record being retained indefinitely. Driver abstracts contain the following standard information:
- name and address
- driver license or identification card number
- sex and date of birth
- former names
- dates and types of traffic convictions, accidents, restrictions, and withdrawals

Who requests these abstracts?  
Federal and state government agencies, county courts and enforcement agencies request information for various reasons. These abstracts are provided at no cost to the users if they request it electronically. There is a charge of $2.00 if they call for the information or want a paper copy.

Insurance companies, employers, school bus contractors, businesses, and the general public also request information for various reasons. These users pay a fee for the abstracts.

Why does DOT provide this information?  
Wisconsin’s Motor Vehicle Law and Open Records Law provide that anyone who requests and pays the appropriate fee and completes a Vehicle/Driver Record Information Request form (MV2896) can obtain any person’s driver record information.

What is MV2896?  
The Federal Drivers’ Privacy Protection Act became effective on April 13, 2000, causing any request for driver record information to be accompanied by a MV2896 (DPPA) form. The form requires information regarding the requester, name of person about whom record(s) are being requested and authorization for the information.

A copy of the Wisconsin DOT Privacy Notice can be found at: http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/privacy.htm.

Is any information confidential?  
Medical information is confidential and is only released if the driver has signed a release authorization form.

Certain information on juveniles (such as suspensions for juvenile alcohol and truancy) is also confidential and will only be released to courts, law enforcement and, in some cases, parents or guardians.

Social Security numbers are used for driver licensing purposes and are not available to the public.

Identification (ID) card information is also confidential and can only be released to the following: the courts; district attorneys; county corporation counsels; city,
Can drivers request suppression of personal identifiable data on files used for marketing and research?

Yes, customers can “opt out” by completing MV3592. If 10 or more records are requested, their personal identifiable data will be suppressed. There are currently 4,188,194 driver records containing the “opt out” notation. Forms can be obtained at all DMV Service Centers and online at http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/optout.htm.

How are requests made?

Individuals requesting a copy of their own driver record abstract may visit DMV’s online services Web page at http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/online.htm. The fee is $5.50, including a 50 cent Web convenience fee. Requests for the records of other drivers can be made by submitting a Vehicle/Driver Record Information form MV2896 and a $7.00 fee. Some large volume requesters maintain accounts for immediate response by our Web-based Public Abstract Request System (PARS). PARS accountholders are charged a $5.00 search fee for each record request.

Other volume users provide computer tapes of requests, for next-day return of abstract information. Brokers are authorized recipients of DMV records who resell or re-disclose the record information to other private entities.

For more information contact:

Bureau of Driver Services
(608) 266-2353
Email: records.dmv@dot.wi.gov