

**What is a Safety Responsibility Administrative Hearing?**

The law requires a person who receives a notice of a safety responsibility suspension the opportunity for a hearing on the proposed suspension action, s. 344.02, Stats. The person, called the petitioner, must request a hearing in writing prior to his/her suspension date.

**How long has Wisconsin conducted SR Hearings?**

In 1971, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Bell v. Burson* that States must allow a person an opportunity for a hearing prior to suspending, an uninsured motorist's operating or registration privileges.

**What is the scope of an SR Hearing?**

The scope of an SR Administrative Hearing is limited to whether or not a reasonable possibility of a judgment exists against an uninsured operator involved in an accident for the amount of bond claimed, or for a lesser amount, as a result of the accident.

**Where are the SR Hearings conducted?**

The hearings are conducted in Madison. A minimal number of hearings are also conducted in Milwaukee.

**How are SR Hearings conducted?**

The hearings are formal. Drivers and witnesses are placed under oath and testify on the record. They may be represented by attorneys, bring witnesses, sworn affidavits, pictures or other evidence. Administrative hearing procedures are governed by s. 227, Stats. The hearing examiner is not bound by statutory rules of evidence. On average, between 700 and 800 hearings are conducted each year.

**For more information contact:**

Bureau of Driver Services  
Traffic Accident Section  
(608) 266-8676  
Email: [traffic-accidents.dmv@dot.state.wi.us](mailto:traffic-accidents.dmv@dot.state.wi.us)