



Timothy M. Metzinger

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October 18, 2010

Federal Aviation Administration
Office of the Chief Counsel
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20591

Subject: Request for opinion on form 8500-8.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing you with two questions concerning a section of FAA Form 8500-8 – the application for an Airman Medical Certificate.

Letter “v” of the medical history section (18) asks for information, some of which is obviously related to motor vehicle offenses. It’s clear to me that if one is convicted of a driving offense involving drugs or alcohol, or has a conviction or administrative action resulting in license suspension, revocation, cancellation, or attendance at an education or rehabilitation program, one must report this on the form.

The instructions on the form also state that individual traffic violations are not reported if they didn’t involve drugs or alcohol or result in attendance in an education or rehabilitation program.

What is not clear to me is if the reporting requirement applies to an Airman that chooses to take a driver education course on his own – that is, he’s NOT “sent” to this course by any court or other official body as a condition of retaining his driving privilege – so that he can improve his skills and build up additional “good driver points” on his record.

Example - Andrew gets a speeding ticket and loses three points on his license. Andrew's been a good driver for many years and had built up five extra "good driver" points on his record, so he still has two points left, and he wouldn't get a suspension in his state until his "score" was below -5 points. But Andrew is worried about losing his insurance discount based on his +5 score, so he decides some months later to take an online driver course that will result in him being credited three points - thus getting his score back where he wants it.

Does attendance at an educational or rehabilitation program *where the attendance was not required to retain the driving privilege* need to be reported on the next medical application?

Does a non-traffic conviction or administrative action that results in attendance at an educational program (i.e. parenting class for someone after a visit from a Social Services officer) get reported under 18.v? It's not clear whether 18.v is solely for traffic offenses and 18.w is for non-traffic offenses or whether 18.v covers anything that results in education or rehabilitation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim M Metzinger', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Timothy M. Metzinger