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you're human



There's no such thing as the perfect driver, but there's a difference between making a small mistake and putting other road users at risk. If you see someone driving dangerously, then reporting it can help make our roads safer for all road users.Find out how to report dangerous driving to the police, how to submit dashcam footage and what happens afterwards. What is dangerous driving?Dangerous driving is driving that puts you and other road users at risk. The Crown Prosecution Service says it's when "driving falls far below the standard expected of a competent and careful driver and it would be obvious that driving in that way would be dangerous".It can also be called "careless driving" or "anti-social driving", depending on how serious the offence is. There are a range of offences that can all count as dangerous or careless driving.Find out more about what dangerous driving is.Should I report dangerous driving?You might feel upset or angry after witnessing dangerous driving. But our research suggests that people are more likely to report a stranger than someone they know, like a friend or family member.We asked our Members what they'd do if they saw a drunk person preparing to drive. 49% said they'd report a drunk driver to the police if it was a stranger. Only 2% said they would call the police if the drunk person was a family member.Rather than report the drunk person for dangerous driving, our Members said they'd prefer to take away the driver's keys, call a cab or offer them a lift.*But reporting someone for driving dangerously is always an option - even if its someone you know - as you can do it anonymously. And reporting dangerous drivers helps keep the roads safe for other road users.How to report dangerous driving to the policeIf you witness dangerous driving, you can report a bad driver to the police.Call 999 if dangerous driving's in progress and you think the driver could cause themselves or others a serious injury, for example if they're a drink driver. Make sure you're not driving and are in a safe place when you call.You can also submit dashcam footage if you have it. Thanks to the increase in drivers using dashcams and the work of Operation Snap, its easy to report dangerous drivers to the police using video footage.After you've told the police about the incident and completed a witness statement, the police will investigate. If they decide to prosecute the other driver, you must be prepared to attend court if necessary.Report a bad driver caught on dashcamDashcam footage is a good way to prove the incident happened and to record details of the dangerous driver.Heres how to submit dashcam footage to the police:Wait until you're out of the car Wait until youve stopped driving and are safely at home before you access your dashcam footage and make your report.Submit dashcam footage online Websites like Nextbase will send the footage to your local police force.Or contact your local police force directly You can call 101 or your local police station. The police may ask you to tell them about the incident over the phone and email the footage using an online form.Remember to drive safely yourselfIf you use a dashcam, remember that the police won't only look at the other driver's actions, they'll look at yours too. You can never use a mobile to take a picture or video of dangerous driving if you're driving - even if its to show another road user committing a traffic offence. All offences in your footage will be addressed - including your own.Report a bad driver without dashcam footageWithout a dashcam, you'll need to record the other drivers details yourself. You'll need to include as many details as possible when you tell the police about the incident.If you fear there is an immediate danger to life, call 999. If not, heres how to report bad drivers to the police:Get the driver's details As soon as you can, pull over in a safe place. 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For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. There's no such thing as the perfect driver, but there's a difference between making a small mistake and putting other road users at risk. If you see someone driving dangerously, then reporting it can help make our roads safer for all road users.Find out how to report dangerous driving to the police, how to submit dashcam footage and what happens afterwards. What is dangerous driving?Dangerous driving is driving that puts you and other road users at risk. The Crown Prosecution Service says it's when "driving falls far below the standard expected of a competent and careful driver and it would be obvious that driving in that way would be dangerous".It can also be called "careless driving" or "anti-social driving", depending on how serious the offence is. 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However, careless driving is a slightly different offence, although both can create the right conditions for an accident. Not paying attention when you're behind the wheel of a vehicle can have serious consequences. But there are differences between careless driving and dangerous driving. When someone's driving falls below the expected standard of a competent driver and fails to consider other people using roads and paths, it falls into the careless driving category.
Careless driving is an offence, and if the police charge you, they'll call it driving without due care and attention. A few examples of this type of thoughtless motoring include: Tailgating Driving through a red light Failing to give way when you should Hogging the middle lane on the motorway Undertaking another vehicle (passing on the left) Smoking, eating or drinking while driving Each of these examples shows the driver isn't paying attention to the road, other users or observing traffic rules. Things are a little more serious in the case of dangerous driving. A dangerous driver's driving standard falls even lower. Its much more serious and can result in high-risk situations for the driver and anyone nearby. A few examples include: Ignoring road signs and traffic lights Driving when you know you're not fit to drive, such as when you're under the influence of drugs, alcohol or some medications Driving when you are injured or unable to see clearly Driving while being dangerously distracted, such as using a mobile phone, tuning the radio or making other changes to the stereo, lighting a cigarette or reading a map or GPS in these situations, the level of the drivers and other road users safety drops well below an acceptable level. So, if you spot someone behaving in the above ways while behind the wheel, its best to report it as soon as possible. To make your report, you'll need a few details. If you see or have seen someone driving dangerously, you should make a report as soon as you can. There are several ways you can do this. Call 999: The fastest way to notify the police of an offence is to call 999 while the incident is taking place. Obviously, make sure you're not in control of a vehicle when you make your call. You'll need to give the operator as many details of the incident as you can remember. That includes the time and place the incident happened, along with the details of the offence. You'll also need to provide the vehicles registration number, along with its make, model and colour. Any other details, such as a description of the driver or passengers, if there are any, are also helpful. Report to the non-emergency police line: If you're reporting dangerous driving after the incident has taken place, you'll need to call 101. This is a non-emergency number. You'll need to give all of the same information about the incident. Report to the DVLA: The DVLA has a toll-free number that can be used to report dangerous driving. You'll need to provide the same details as if you were making a report to the police. This toll-free number can also be used to report someone who seems to be falling asleep at the wheel or doesn't appear to see well enough to control a car. Sometimes, its not possible to report dangerous driving straight away. Notifying the police of the incident online is simple and a great option if you'd like to submit a dashcam recording with your eyewitness account. Even with a dashcam recording, you'll still need to give a written report of the dangerous driving incident. Not all police forces have website forms for submitting your report online. However, the Metropolitan Police have an online form for traffic offence reports that covers the whole of the UK. There are several ways to include a dashcam recording of a dangerous driving incident in your report. Some county police forces support a direct upload of dashcam video files to their online forms. In cases where this isn't possible, the Nextbase dashcam software can upload the file for you to your local constabulary. 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The local Road Policing Unit will be handed your report, and they will decide how to deal with it along with any further actions that need to be taken. A letter may be sent to the driver you have reported to warn them that a complaint has been made about their driving. The complaint will be recorded on the dangerous driving database. Not all reports of dangerous driving are acted upon even when dashcam recordings are included with the complaint. If a complaint about your driving has been made to the police, they are obligated to check this complaint against their records. The complaint will also be recorded in the dangerous driving database. That means if further reports about your driving are made, they will match future searches. The complaint may be investigated further, and this could result in prosecution. If this is the case, you will need to attend court and could face charges, have up to 11 points added to your licence, or be banned from driving. 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It is also a term of art in the definition of the offence of causing death by dangerous driving. It replaces the former offence of reckless driving. Canada's Criminal Code has equivalent provisions covering dangerous driving (see "Canada" section below).This offence is created by section 2 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (as substituted by section 1 of the Road Traffic Act 1991[1]):A person who drives a mechanically propelled vehicle dangerously on a road or other public place is guilty of an offence.A person is to be regarded as driving dangerously for the purposes of sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 if the way he/she drives falls far below what would be expected of a competent and careful driver, and it would be obvious to a competent and careful driver that driving in that way would be dangerous.[2] and it would be obvious to a competent and careful driver that driving the vehicle in its current state (for the purpose of the determination of which regard may be had to the state of the vehicle) would be dangerous.[3]In this context, "dangerous" refers to danger either of injury to any person or of serious damage to property, and in determining what would be expected of, or obvious to, a competent and careful driver in a particular case, regard shall be had not only to the circumstances of which he could be expected to be aware but also to any circumstances shown to have been within the knowledge of the accused.[4]In Attorney General's Reference (No 4 of 2000) (2001) 2 Cr. App. R. 417 Woolf CJ said at p 422: The essential limbs, as is common ground, do not require any specific intent to drive dangerously. Section 2A sets out a wholly objective test. The concept of what is obvious to a careful driver places the question of what constitutes dangerous driving within the province of the jury. Thus, whereas the underlying test of dangerousness is objective, a test based on the concept of "obviousness" considers the extent of knowledge as to causation. This test is hybrid, drawing both on the actual subjective knowledge that the accused had in his or her mind at the time the actus reus of driving occurred, and on the knowledge that would have been in the mind of a reasonable person (see mens rea and criminal negligence for discussion on the nature of these tests and the scope of the reasonable person).The Court of Appeal held in the case of R v Banister [5] that police drivers get no special treatment. "The special skill (or indeed lack of skill) of a driver is an irrelevant circumstance when considering whether the driving is dangerous".In England and Wales and Scotland, a person guilty of dangerous driving is liable, on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for any term not exceeding two years, or to a fine, or to both, or on summary conviction, to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months, or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or to both.[6]Any conviction for dangerous driving (or causing death by dangerous driving) for a driver holding a licence issued by the Driver and Vehicle Agency (Northern Ireland) or Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (for licences issued in England, Wales or Scotland) will result in a mandatory
disqualification if the offence took place in the United Kingdom proper, Isle of Man or Republic of Ireland (see also Traffic violations reciprocity). The driver must return to a driving test in the UK. There are several ways to include a dashcam recording of a dangerous driving incident in your report. Some county police forces support a direct upload of dashcam video files to their online forms. In cases where this isn't possible, the Nextbase dashcam software can upload the file for you to your local constabulary. When reporting a dangerous driver, you might be worried about the aftermath. Could the person find out and threaten you? The good news is, whichever way you report an incident, your details will be treated confidentially. The person you reported won't be given your name or details. However, you may have to go to court if the driver ends up being prosecuted. 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