



South Africa Institute of Driving Instructors

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Why is integrity our driving force?

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Integrity is our driving force

As INTEGRITY remains our driving force, we must once and for all expose the corruption and dishonesty of the fraudulent “driving schools” that give our profession a bad name. I am talking of people, who are teaching driving, but who do not have a valid instructor’s certificate; who use cars not fitted with dual control as required by law; and in unmarked, sometimes un-insured, sometimes un-roadworthy vehicles. It is these instructors who are often guilty of stealing from the public, making false promises which they have no intention of fulfilling. This is fraud!

At the same time there are great driving instructors and driving schools, who are committed to providing the public with good service, and pupils who drive to a very high standard. We commend those dedicated people who struggle against incredible odds to serve their clients well.

For 30 years SAIDI has willingly worked with the authorities to set high standards in the driving school industry.

The public needs be wary of offers that guarantee a licence. The only way an instructor can deliver on such a promise is through fraudulent activity at the testing centres.

It is also well known that stolen test sheets are commonly given to learners as study material for the tests. In fact, the answer sheets are often given without the questions, to be learnt “off by heart.” SAIDI strongly condemns these activities.

South Africa has been too slow to address the corruption in the driving school industry. We have excellent laws, but it is a sad fact that they are seldom enforced, at the expense of the tax-payer.

Offenders become rich while defrauding students. They arrive for appointments at any time except the time booked, or they never arrive at all. Bad reports about them are legion. Some run away with the fees. Others keep the learner’s documents, preventing the learner drivers from going elsewhere. Their victims are often the naïve and innocent who can scarcely afford instruction. There are instructors who smoke in the car while teaching, do drugs or drive so drunk they can hardly stand.

There are others who have been charged with assault. One is serving a jail sentence for assaulting his wife.

Then there are the perverts who prey on the youngsters. A concerned father recently phoned from the coast, reporting the filthy things a Johannesburg instructor said to his daughter.

Without previous warning or communication, some underhanded instructors suddenly demand R1500 for the use of a driving school vehicle on the night before the test because they know the student is accustomed to using it and the student has no other vehicle to use. Heartless, without decency, mercy or a sense of fairness, such people laugh at the authorities and are always busy with yet another dishonest trick.



We want members to find acceptable rates for their insurance policies (instead of being labelled as “bad risks”) from insurers.

Nobody understands this industry as well as we do, so SAIDI would like to be included in law-making processes, to ensure a fair deal for the honest, hard-working instructors who deserve support, but we will never accept the undesirable types as members of our organization. We condemn their practices in every way possible!

For all the above reasons, SAIDI cannot allow membership to driving schools or instructors who are unwilling to comply with our code of conduct.

SAIDI is an umbrella body

SAIDI is an umbrella body for driving instructors who operate in a professional way. We wish to provide good, honest and thorough training to learner drivers while caring for their safety and obtaining top-notch results. Members under the SAIDI umbrella freely choose to adhere to our Code of Conduct. They are NOT compelled to by law.

Aspire to gain respect

SAIDI members aspire to gain the respect of the public by conducting business that is honourable in every way. Cheating is short-term gain for long-term loss.

No compromise

Though we earn a living through training learner drivers, we must not compromise on integrity. Money is NOT what it is all about! It is fraud to make false promises.

Safety First

Caring and looking out for the safety of our students (and the people who share the roads with us) is our first priority while we teach them to be safe drivers and to pass their tests.

Skilled, competent and law abiding

We want our successful students to exert a positive influence wherever they drive, in South Africa or anywhere in the world, through skill, competence and adhering to the law. They should be unwilling to sacrifice the standard of their driving – even when no one is watching.

Lead by example

By setting a correct example, we inspire an attitude of correctness in our learners. We should never say, “Do as I say, not as I do”.

Persist in doing the right thing

A SAIDI member should NEVER tell a student to “just drive the K53 way to get through the licence”. Anyone who does so fails to understand what the K53 test is all about.



Always drive responsibly

A SAIDI member should NEVER say, "follow the laws until you have your licence, then drive any way you want to". We have a responsibility to change the face of South African driving. This is NOT a game. We are talking about life and death here. Would you want an instructor to say that to your child?

Make sure that WE drive correctly first

We help our learners and change and better ourselves by eliminating redundant driving techniques, replacing them with improved methods that add to the safety of our country's roads.

Share your wisdom

SAIDI members are willing to offer up a wealth of hard-won experience gained in extreme weather conditions and gruelling traffic - all while sharing the road with many kinds of drivers and guiding nervous (and thus risky) students. We are therefore able to face many challenges fearlessly and still apply the law.

Behave in a way you are proud of always

We choose to train intuitively – always to the advantage of our students, sharing our experience with them to inspire safe and practical driving.

As true professionals we should NEVER be accused of behaving indecently, making crude remarks to learners or encouraging corruption in any form. Young students should NEVER become the victims of perverted minds, or influenced to use drugs or alcohol. Teaching driving is also not a dating field. Driving schools employing young men as instructors, qualified or unqualified, may have more problems in this area.

There have been many cases of driving instructors inquiring about membership, but when they discover that they must be in possession of a valid instructor's certificate they disappear.