

State of Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

February 13, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

The Improv Basic Driver Improvement Course was approved by the Department in April 1993. The course uses humor as the delivery methodology for the curriculum, involving highly interactive and innovative classroom techniques. The course provides effective instruction in: the concept of collision prevention, crash avoidance driving techniques, alcohol and drug use as a collision factor, the risk factor involved in driver attitude, irresponsible driver behaviors and the major traffic laws of Florida.

There are abundant examples inside the educational research literature of humor being successfully used as a delivery methodology. These examples are from research completed on primary, secondary, undergraduate, graduate, vocational, and adult continuing education course types.

The Improv Basic Driver Improvement Course was studied in the department's report to the Legislature, dated October 1, 1998. The Improv Basic Driver Improvement Course treatment group (composed of Florida drivers) passed the test criteria by showing a reduction in moving violations and/or crash recidivism when compared to a control group (composed of Florida drivers).

Additionally, basic driver improvement courses are used as a treatment modality for Florida's drivers who have been in a crash. If licensed Florida drivers are in a collision involving death or bodily injury requiring transport to a medical facility, or are in two collisions involving damage of at least \$500 within a two-year period, they are required to attend an approved basic driver improvement course. For drivers who are mandated to a basic driver improvement course because of a collision, there is a 39.9 percent reduction in collisions by the treatment group when compared to the control groups. (A copy of this study is available upon request.)

Feel free to call with questions or for additional information at (850) 487-3132.

Sincerely,

Fred O. Dickinson, III
Executive Director