



Your question about proper documentation of a solo endorsement under 14 CFR §61.87

From Sherrill, Thomas R (FAA)

REDACTED

Date Thu 9/3/2026 9:44 AM**To**

REDACTED

Good morning

REDACTED

Your inquiry has been referred to me to address. My first question is are you associated with a Part 141 School or is this flight school operating on Part 61? There isn't much difference between the two when it comes to flight instructors removing the authorization to solo.

If a flight instructor tells you (orally) that you can no longer fly solo even though he has signed you off for solo that is good enough for you not to fly solo. If something happened since it was an oral disapproval it would be a "he/she said/she/he said" which would be messy. Since the school has sent you a letter that states you can't rent from them because of the instructors' actions there now is a written statement telling you not to solo.

If the school is a Part 141 school. §141.79(b) requires instructor approval and release for the particular solo flight. So even though endorsed for solo, you can't take off at your discretion without approval by an instructor. If you are operating or getting instruction under Part 61, §61.89(a)(8) prohibits a student from acting as a PIC. You have been told you can't solo. If you decide to solo after you have been told not to you would in effect, be acting as a PIC. You decided to solo (fly) even told you can't. That is PIC decision.

In a 2015 FAA Chief Council Decision (McHenry) said an instructor may place limitations on a student's solo endorsement, and those limitations remain effective until they expire or are superseded by a later endorsement of the same type. Under §61.87 the issuing instructor may revise the students' solo limitations. In this case the instructor has removed your solo permission.

If you present your logbook the instructor can place in your logbook this endorsement: Solo flight privileges suspended pending reevaluation and further authorization by an authorized flight instructor. I am sure if you took your logbook back into the school they would in fact be very accommodating to enter this into your logbook.

Flight instructors make decisions based on your safety. If they think your not ready to continue solo flight you have choices. Work with them to get your solo privileges back or proceed to find a different school to continue your flight.

If you have any questions, you can contact me directly.

Respectively,

Thomas R Sherrill, Jr.

Thomas R Sherrill Jr.

Federal Aviation Administration