



DUI.LifeTips.com



Category: BAC - Blood Alcohol Concentration

Subcategory: BAC - Blood Alcohol Concentration

Tip: Different States - Different Legal Blood Alcohol Levels

Even though drunk driving has similar results no matter where it happens, your location can play a large part in your legal blood alcohol level. Each state mandates its own legal levels of blood alcohol concentration. These range greatly. If you will be traveling and may be presented with a situation that could lead to possible drinking, make sure you know local limits. It is always best to not drink at all before driving. However, it never hurts to know the legal blood alcohol level where you will be driving.

Tip: Field Sobriety Testing

Those who get pulled over on a DUI stop are often asked to perform a field sobriety test to determine whether or not the driver is intoxicated. Those asked to perform such tests should know the tests are not scientific measurements of blood alcohol concentration. Remember that you are not required to do these field tests, but keep in mind that if you refuse the field sobriety test, you may have your blood alcohol levels tested at some point. This may include a trip to the police station and an extended period there while the test is prepared and administered.

Tip: What Are You Drinking?

Did you know there are online blood alcohol calculators that can help you determine your possible impairment levels before you take a single drink? One such calculator, supplied by the University of Oklahoma Police Department (<http://www.ou.edu/oupd/bac.htm>) offers a blood alcohol level calculator based on weight, hours spend drinking, and type of drink consumed. The results may surprise you! The calculator is just a rough guide to your blood alcohol level, and doesn't take into account meals, fatigue and other conditions. The calculator can be an excellent guide as to what to expect when drinking over time, and is especially helpful for those not used to alcohol and its effects.

Tip: What is the Difference Between a Field Sobriety Test and a Breath Test?

Field sobriety testing involves silly exercises that test your motor skills. Touching your nose and walking in a straight line are just two examples however, you are not always required to take a field sobriety test! A breath test, on the other hand, is not an option. Every state has the "implied consent" law when it comes to the use of a blood alcohol calculator, tester, or other method of determining your blood alcohol concentration. By owning and driving a car, you have given your consent to the tests. Asking for a fully calibrated machine, a blood test, or other means of insuring accuracy is not a bad idea

since you, the driver, have no idea whether or not the machine is set properly or operated by someone properly trained to use it.

Tip: When to Use Your Portable Breathalyzer

Many people think the best time to check their blood alcohol concentration with a portable breath tester is right before the drive home. A better use of the portable breathalyzer? Using it to check blood alcohol levels all through an evening of alcohol consumption. This can let you know when you are approaching the legal limit and help you back off to avoid a risky situation later. It can also help people to become more self-aware about their own limits with alcohol. How many times have you gone too far and spoiled your evening of fun with one drink too many? A portable test of your blood alcohol levels can assist you in knowing when to say "when".

Category: Boating Under the Influence

Subcategory: Boating Under the Influence

Tip: Boating While Intoxicated in Texas

According to a recent study, Texas has more square miles of inland water than any other state. With all of this to cover, there are many laws regarding boating while intoxicated in the State of Texas:

- In Texas, it is illegal to operate a boat with a blood alcohol content of 0.08 or higher (the same as that for a DWI)
- Texas law establishes stiff penalties for boating while intoxicated (BWI) including:
 - o First conviction carries a fine up to \$2,000 and/or jail time up to 180 days
 - o Second conviction carries a fine up to \$4,000 and/or jail time up to one year
 - o Third conviction carries a fine up to \$10,000 and/or jail time of 2-10 years.
- If you are found to be boating while intoxicated in Texas in a vessel that has an engine over 50 horsepower, your license will automatically be suspended. If you own a boat or personal watercraft in Texas, think twice before downing a few on the water.

Tip: California Laws Regarding Boating While Intoxicated

In the State of California, boating while intoxicated carries similar definitions and penalties as driving while intoxicated. California states that no person can operate any boat or personal watercraft (including manipulating water skis or an inner tube) if that person is under the influence of alcohol. As with DUI, California specifies a legal limit for intoxication of .08%. Anything over .08% will bring fines, possible license suspension, and possible jail time. California also has laws regarding underage boating while intoxicated. Any person under the age of 21 in California may not operate a boat, Jet Ski, water skis, or any similar devices if they have a blood alcohol level of .01% or more. No matter the situation, boating while intoxicated in California can have serious

repercussions. *Not having any alcohol on a watercraft is the safest way for everyone to enjoy boating. The person operating the craft is not the only one at risk (intoxicated passengers are also at risk of injury and falling overboard).

Tip: Coast Guard Involvement in BUI Stops

The Coast Guard has an agreement with state and local authorities to cooperate with enforcement of boating while intoxicated laws. If a Coast Guard vessel intercepts someone boating under the influence, they have the authority to detain and redirect the vessel in question. Redirecting means that if a vessel is "pulled over" by the Coast Guard, the vessel can be taken to mooring by someone considered competent to operate the vessel. This can be one of the passengers, but more likely is a Coast Guard member being ordered to take charge of the vessel. California boating under the influence laws (as well as many other states) dictate that the Coast Guard detain the operator in most cases until law enforcement can pick up the offender. This can take many hours depending on caseload for local law enforcement! Boating under the influence is regulated by such inter-agency cooperation in many states. The inconvenience, penalties, and embarrassment connected with being found boating under the influence is simply not worth the risk.

Tip: Steep Local Penalties

1 800 DUI LAWS Tip: Did you know that if your driving license is suspended as a result of a violation of California boating under the influence laws, you are affected by the same rules that affect drunk driving cases? This can include DMV hearings to get your license back! Also, any violation of underage drinking laws or underage blood alcohol content will further complicate your case.

Category: Drugged Driving

Subcategory: Drugged Driving

Tip: December is National Drugged Driving Month

Recently, the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control announced that December would be their National Drugged Driving Month. This is in an effort to bring more attention to the problem of drugged driving. Here are a few facts about drugged driving:

- Drugs other than alcohol are involved in almost 19% of motor vehicle driver deaths
- Often, these drugs (such as marijuana or cocaine) are used in combination with alcohol

Hopefully, the publicity will attract far more attention to drugged driving and reinforce the current awareness programs in effect across the country. And, as with drunk driving, electing a designated driver can help.

Tip: The Terrible Consequences of Drugged Driving

Drug use is considered, by many, to be a victimless crime. "I am only hurting myself" is a common mantra for many drug addicts. However, a drug user can hurt many others when their drug addiction turns into drugged driving. Beyond hurting others, drugged driving can only have lead to consequences for the user. Whereas alcohol has become far more socially acceptable than recreational drugs, the courts look harder upon drugged driving cases. Prosecutors in drugged driving cases will take into account the drugs that were in use (this can lead to a stiff sentence including fines and jail time). *Do not let recreational drug use lead to drugged driving. Use a designated driver or be one yourself for others.

Category: Drunk Driving Accidents

Subcategory: Drunk Driving Accidents

Tip: Consult an Attorney After a Drunk Driving Crash

Drunk driving can have long lasting affects on everyone involved, especially in the event of a drunk driving crash. Whether you are the driver or the victim of a drunk driving crash, it is in your best interest to speak with an attorney as soon as you can. • Drivers: Become well aware of your rights so that you can protect yourself • Victims: know your rights with regard to medical and auto coverage for damages as well as for civil advice *Attorneys are often a necessity after a drunk driving crash and you should be prepared. Use the Internet and yellow pages to find a local attorney who specializes in drunk driving crashes. Protect yourself and know your rights.

Tip: Financial Recovery After a Drunk Driving Crash

Many people think that after a drunk driving crash, there is little recourse beyond that of the driver's auto insurance. However, much more can be lost than your car after a drunk driving crash and here are a few places you can seek to recover from your losses: • Were you injured? If so, consult with your employer about disability benefits you can collect while you are unable to work. • How seriously were you injured? If your drunk driving crash resulted in serious injury, consult with an attorney about a civil suit against the driver responsible for the crash. • Did you lose more than your car in the crash? If you had valuables in your car when you were the victim of a drunk driving crash and you are a homeowner or renter, consult with your homeowner's or renter's insurance company to recover losses of items that would typically be in your home. • Can the state help? Many states have 'Crime Victim Compensation' laws that will help cover expenses such as hospital and funerals for victims of crimes. Check with a local State's Attorney with regard to your local regulations. A drunk driving crash does not have to be the end of the world. Get the financial help that is available to you as a victim of such a serious

crime.

Tip: To Blow or Not to Blow - Choices to Make in a Drunk Driving Accident

Every person maintains certain rights under the law, including drunk drivers. Even if a person's drunk driving leads to an accident, these rights cannot be infringed upon. Most important in these rights is the right to not incriminate oneself. Any drunk driving accident will require that the driver be proven drunk. This can be done through breathalyzer tests, blood samples, or even field sobriety exams. In these situations, remember that if you are the driver, you are not required to provide evidence to the authorities that will assist them in your prosecution. When it comes to breathalyzer tests, you can choose whether or not to comply. Most states will automatically revoke your driver's license for refusal, however, this is not as concrete a penalty as a DUI conviction. If you are in a drunk driving accident, remember that you still have your rights and think carefully about your decisions.

Category: Drunk Driving Facts & Stats

Subcategory: Drunk Driving Facts & Stats

Tip: Drunk Driving - Who Suffers?

Drunk driving can lead to other crimes. Too often, drunk driving inevitably leads to crimes like vehicular manslaughter. For those arrested for drunk driving in and of itself, many would say that it is a fairly 'victimless crime'. However, these same people are not realizing that, to some extent, the driver is a victim. Even if no one is hurt and no property damaged, drunk driving can cause the driver to lose more than they bargained for when they pick up their keys. *If you are arrested for drunk driving, remember to find yourself a good DUI attorney and, next time, remember that you can prevent yourself from being the victim in the future.

Tip: Little Known Drinking and Driving Facts

A little known drinking and driving fact is that Alaska actually has the highest rate of fatal drinking and driving accidents. Theories for why this drinking and driving fact exists range from the extended cold season making people more prone to drinking, to the more realistic, consistent icy roads. *Drive carefully should you ever be in Alaska. This drinking and driving fact could save your life.

Tip: More Little Known Drunk Driving Facts

Think you are safe from DUI? Think again. Drunk driving facts show that anyone, at any time can be a victim. Here are some little-known drunk driving facts that show you what

I mean: • Over 40% of fatal automobile accidents are alcohol-related • Approximately 30% of Americans will be in an accident involving alcohol • According to estimates, someone is injured in an alcohol-related accident every two minutes • Accidents involving alcohol are more likely to occur at night... about five times more likely • About two-thirds of DUI convictions are for first time offenders • More than one-third of all fatal traffic accidents involve at least one person with a BAC over 0.08% Do you still think you can dodge the drunk driving bullet? Drunk driving facts do not lie. Do what you can to avoid becoming a statistic.

Tip: Motorcycles & Drunk Driving - Statistics Don't Lie

Do you prefer two-wheels or four when you are on the road? If you are the motorcycle or scooter type, you should think twice and then a third time before getting on the road after having a few too many. Did you know that between 1980 and the present, drunk driving fatalities on motorcycles are over 10% more likely than those in cars? These drunk driving statistics are proportional, so they do take into account that many more people drive cars. Motorcyclists are harder for others on the road to see and, with most drunk driving statistics suggesting that fatal accidents are more likely to occur at night, the darkness adds yet another dangerous factor to the situation. Drunk driving statistics don't lie. If you like to ride your mean machine on the open road—do it sober. Don't become a drunk driving statistic yourself.

Tip: Preventing Drunk Drivers - Do Your Part

We have all been there. You're at a bar, a party, or even a friends house when someone has had one too many and doesn't think twice about hitting the road. Drunk drivers are a risk to themselves, others, and even you. Do not just watch next time. *The only way to prevent drunk drivers from getting on the road is to stop them in their tracks. If your friend looks like a potential drunk driver next time you are out together, stop them before they go too far. They will thank you for it, guaranteed.

Tip: Useful Drunk Driving Facts

Drunk driving facts can be a useful tool for any parent or teacher who wants to alert young people to the dangers of drinking and driving. Here are some helpful drunk driving facts that may help scare them straight: • One person is killed every half-hour due to drunk driving • Each year approximately 16,000 are killed in alcohol related crashes • Alcohol is a factor in almost half of all traffic fatalities • Every other minute a person is seriously injured in an alcohol related crash *For more drunk driving facts to help you teach the right lessons, check our other articles and categories.

Category: DUI - Driving Under the Influence

Subcategory: DUI - Driving Under the Influence

Tip: Blood Test vs. Breath Test

If you are given the choice between a breath test and a blood test during a DUI stop, there are two important things to keep in mind. First and foremost, chemical test refusal is tantamount to pleading guilty on the spot. The second thing you should seriously consider is asking for a blood test instead of a breath test. This DUI test is very helpful in many cases, because the evidence can be retested at a later date in case of a botched initial test. A breathalyzer test cannot be re-accomplished later. If you get a false positive for a driving under the influence, you are basically stuck with those results unless a competent DUI lawyer can contest the evidence of the breath test. If you are being wrongly accused of illegal behavior under the local drunk driving law, the blood test may be your best friend.

Tip: Convicted of DWAI? Don't Make the Same Mistake Twice

In Colorado, driving under the influence is often classified as DWAI (driving while ability impaired). If you have been convicted of DWAI in Colorado, don't worry, it is not the end of the world. That is, unless you make the same mistake again. Colorado actually has fairly lenient penalties for a first time DWAI offender. There is no mandatory jail time, there are minimal fines, and there is little community service. However, these penalties will increase dramatically should you break the DWAI law again. As opposed to 1st time offenders, second time DWAI offenders face a mandatory 5 days in jail, a \$1,000 fine, and an indefinite license revocation. As you can see, the penalties for repeat DWAI are no picnic. If you already have a DWAI on your record, do whatever you can to avoid the harsh penalties associated with recidivism and DWAI.

Tip: Get Help Before You Get a DUI

Many DUI accidents could have been prevented. Too many drunken driving accidents are caused by drivers who are regular abusers of alcohol or suffer from alcoholism. For those that wait too long, the wake up call could come in the form of a DUI. A charge of DUI on your record can change your life forever. If you are lucky, the wake up call will only hit you and won't involve you hitting someone else. *If you have a problem, there are plenty of resources available today that can help you with your problem before it consumes you. Do not let a DUI or other alcohol-related problem affect your life. Get help before it is too late.

Tip: What Do Police Look For in DUI Stops?

When being pulled over as part of a DUI sweep, it is important to remember a few things: 1. Don't panic! A drunk driving sweep does not mean an automatic felony DUI charge. The police have probably stopped dozens of people before you, and dozens

more will be stopped once you have driven away. Acting too nervous or worried only arouses the suspicions of the officer. 2. In most cases, a single drink does not put you in violation of the law. See the above rule. 3. Be polite and act normally. The officer isn't interested in you personally; he or she has a job to do. Rude, obnoxious, or otherwise unusual behavior can be considered telltale signs of illegal activity including driving under the influence of drugs. 4. Officers hear every kind of excuse and explanation in the world. Save time by simply complying with what the authorities want you to do, but never hesitate to ask for a blood test instead of a breath test. Following these simple steps will help speed your time through the DUI checkpoint and get you on your way home.

Category: DUI Charges & Trials

Subcategory: DUI Charges & Trials

Tip: The Hidden Penalty

One of the "hidden" penalties of a DUI trial, a felony charge, and the need for a good drunk driving defense is elevated insurance premiums or cancelled policies as a result of a DUI trial, felony charge, or DUI conviction. Many insurance companies don't know right away when a DUI is entered onto your record. Once they do find out, you may be placed into a high-risk category, or have your insurance cancelled altogether. A good DUI attorney will tell you that you will probably be required to furnish proof of insurance to the Department of Motor Vehicles for a proscribed period of time following a DUI trial. Ask any professional legal expert and they will tell you that insurance companies usually have a limited time to act after a DUI conviction to raise your rates or cancel your policy. That is good news for those facing a DUI trial, but if your company does cancel your insurance, you will have to try to get another policy with that blemish on your record.

Tip: What Can I Expect From a Jury DUI Trial?

1 800 DUI LAWS Tip: If you can't afford the services of a competent DUI lawyer, you may need to resort to instructing the lawyer to do things on your behalf such as contesting the results of a potentially flawed breathalyzer test. If your current lawyer seems unwilling to address your concerns, seriously consider making the investment for a good DUI lawyer.

Tip: What is a Felony DUI?

1 800 DUI LAWS Tip: While a felony charge may not disqualify you automatically from professional driving jobs, many employers look upon a felony DUI conviction of any kind as a disqualifying factor. Even a misdemeanor DUI charge can be looked upon unfavorably in a professional driving career. The fact that you later had the charge set

aside, expunged, or otherwise cleared up may not be enough to save your current job.

Tip: Why Does My Lawyer Want Me To Plead Guilty?

Many DUI lawyers, upon reviewing the facts of a particular felony charge, will advise a client to forgo a "not guilty" plea. You may be angered when you first hear this advice, but try to keep an open mind. Your drunk driving defense may not stand up in court, or the DUI lawyer has seen the outcome of your particular DUI defense, and knows a better way to go. Pleading guilty may be your best bet for a number of reasons. If you have no issues with a DUI washout period, or other state DUI laws, a first-time offense may be plea-bargained for a reduced punishment. Your DUI lawyer or other state counsel could get you into alcohol counseling, driving school, or community service as an alternative to incarceration, heavy fines, or other punishments. A guilty plea may actually work in your favor in a DUI trial. Being found guilty will bring much stronger punishment!

Category: DUI Laws

Subcategory: DUI Laws

Tip: DUI Law is for DUI Lawyers

Attorneys come in all shapes and sizes and with all sorts of specializations. If you are facing prosecution for violation of DUI law, find yourself a qualified DUI lawyer. These specific lawyers have experience with DUI law and will be able to represent you better than another type of lawyer. If you had a heart problem, you would not go to a podiatrist, but rather to a cardiologist. They are both doctors, but specialization is the key. The same goes for choosing your lawyer. When it comes to DUI law, there are intricacies that are often only known by attorneys with actual DUI trial experience. Make sure that you choose a lawyer with good references and an extensive history of dealing with DUI law. You will be happy you did.

Tip: History of Illinois State DUI Law

Illinois has a long history behind their present DUI law. Illinois state DUI law started in 1958 when the first amount of blood alcohol content was identified as making on 'under the influence'. At that time, the blood alcohol level was .15%. Today, Illinois state DUI law mandates a blood alcohol level of .08% as making a person 'under the influence'. These are not the only changes that have occurred. Original Illinois DUI law did not carry nearly as stiff a penalty as current Illinois state DUI law. Today, prison is definitely in the cards for a repeat DUI offender in Illinois—that was not always the case. *Keep up with the state DUI laws so that you can always know your rights if you are ever stopped.

Tip: How Can Three Strikes Affect Me?

1 800 DUI LAWS Tip: The three strikes law in your state may be under challenge, and your lawyer should know what provisions of current state law may be in doubt. Make sure your lawyer has at least 25 hours a year in continuing DUI and DWI defense education.

Tip: Learning More About DUI Law

If you are looking to expand your knowledge of local DUI law, there are many available resources to help:

- The state that you live in should have a website that gives detailed information about your state's DUI law
- Use your local agencies
- Try contacting your sheriff's department or police station—officers will typically be happy to help
- Contact your local State's or District's Attorney office

Between all of these resources, you can easily learn more about DUI law.

Tip: What Does "Wet Reckless" Mean?

Wet reckless is lawyer jargon for a lesser conviction allowed when the defendant agrees to plead guilty to a substitute charge for "non-injury" DUI. This results in a far more lenient sentence of a fine that can go as high as \$1,200 in some states, and a period of "informal probation." The punishment is less severe, but wet reckless goes on your record and you are viewed as a DUI offender in the event of future DUI charges.

Category: DUI Schools

Subcategory: DUI Schools

Tip: On Location DUI School?

Some states require you attend DUI school on location, but what can you do if your license has already been suspended or revoked? In state that do not have adequate forms of public transportation, you may be eligible for a hardship driver's license or restricted license. This license may permit you to drive to and from DUI class only, or possibly back and forth to work as well. Any other use is usually forbidden; you can't use this restricted license for any other purpose. Have your lawyer look into whether you are eligible for such a license. A restricted license may already be a part of your first DUI probation terms, but if not, get in touch with the DMV right away to learn what you can do.

Category: Expungement of Criminal Records

Subcategory: Expungement of Criminal Records

Tip: What About a Felony Conviction With Prison Time?

There are some cases where a California expungement, or other state felony expungement, is not available or applicable. The good news is that there are still avenues for help. You may be eligible for a certificate of rehabilitation and pardon, or a Governor's pardon. These actions greatly depend on the circumstances of your case, but they are avenues open to you if you can't apply for an expungement. One of the things that can deny you access to the expungement process is a sentence with no probation. If you must serve a term in state prison (as opposed to jail time and then probation), chances are you won't be able to apply for relief or expungement. Check with your lawyer for the most current information regarding your case.

Tip: What Is Expungement?

Expungement is the sealing or "cleaning" of criminal records. Did you know that many offenses can be expunged from your record with the help of a competent state expungement attorney? You will need to consult a lawyer in the state where the offense happened to find out what laws may be applicable to you. Some states require successful completion of any probation, community service, etc before expungement of criminal records can be considered, so it is vital that you finish any court-required treatment, rehab, counseling, and probationary period without incident.

Tip: What Is Expungement?

1 800 DUI LAWS Tip: Did you know that in California, the nature of your California expungement depends on whether you were an adult or a juvenile at the time of the offense? Ask your lawyer what the most appropriate course of action if you were underage drinking at the time of the offense. It may be quite different than your options as an adult offender.

Category: Ignition Interlock Devices

Subcategory: Ignition Interlock Devices

Tip: Ignition Interlock Safeguard Devices

Participation in an ignition interlock device program requires absolute cooperation in order to be considered successful. Even with the second chance, there are some people who try to thwart, tamper with, or override the ignition interlock. Those who really want the second chance at being a safe driver again don't attempt this, but the percentage that do force manufacturers of ignition interlock systems to install

anti-tampering devices which can inconvenience those who are making an honest go of their second chance program. One inconvenience you may be forced to deal with is with food and drink while driving. It is not a good idea to consume food around an ignition interlock device. Many models activate the breath test function at random as part of a program called the "rolling test". This "secret sample" will prevent the car from operating if a positive breath alcohol test result is achieved. Interlock manufacturers recommend no eating or drinking around the system to "prevent damage to the system".

Tip: Requirements for Participation in an Ignition Interlock Program

State laws vary, but California has a program similar to other states including Connecticut. The rules regarding the California DMV and ignition interlock devices includes a mandatory period where your license has been revoked. If you failed a breath alcohol test and received a suspended license as part of the conviction, California state law stipulates that you serve at least half the revoked or suspended license period before you can be eligible for the ignition interlock system. Other state laws may vary, but expect that you will need to serve out at least some of the suspension period and comply with any court ordered programs and counseling to be eligible.

Tip: Restrictions on the Ignition Interlock Program

A small percentage of drivers take part in an ignition interlock device program, only to try to cheat the system later on. Did you know a driver is subject to arrest for such actions? The ignition interlock system must be used by the owner of the vehicle each and every time he or she attempts to drive. There is a list of illegal uses of the ignition interlock system including: 1. Tampering with the ignition interlock device in any way. 2. Allowing someone else to use the interlock breath alcohol test to allow the owner to drive. 3. De-installing the ignition interlock system and operating the vehicle. These are all illegal, and can result in the removal of the offender from the program and possible arrest.

Tip: What Is An Ignition Interlock Device?

1 800 DUI LAWS Tip: Did you know that by population level, only a small number of DUI offenders enter an ignition interlock program? If you are allowed to take part in the program, get information on the California DMV and ignition interlocks systems to install on your vehicles, regardless of the cost. This can go a long way towards helping you get a new start. Successful participation is a powerful demonstration to the court that you are interested in rehabilitation.

Category: License Suspension

Subcategory: License Suspension

Tip: Do I Get My License Back if I Was Found Not Guilty?

If your DMV hearing resulted in a continuation of your driver license suspension, this suspension remains in effect regardless of the verdict at the trial. You may not receive DUI punishment, but the Department of Motor Vehicles in your state will need to review your case and make a determination on the status of your license suspension. A not guilty verdict is not an automatic restoration of your driving privileges. You will need to contact the DMV to learn what to do next, and how long the process may take in your state. This is one of the unfortunate effects of the DUI arrest ordeal, and even though you are found not guilty, you still have to comply with DMV rules until the matter is settled once and for all.

Tip: DUI - Your Ticket To License Suspension

Today, it is hard for most to imagine living without the ability to move around freely with your own automobile. License suspension by the state is the worst way to lose this privilege. The most common reason for people having their license suspended is for a DUI arrest or other moving violations. If license suspension doesn't sound good to you, think twice before the next time you get behind the wheel after a night out. One fun night could cost you years of being able to keep you driving privileges. Unless you live in a major city where public transportation is everywhere, think of how a license suspension would affect getting to work, transporting your family, or just going to leisure activities.

Tip: Getting Reinstated After A License Revocation

Each state has a different procedure for getting your license reinstated after revocation. For example, in Florida, if you wait to reinstate your license until your revocation period ends, you must present proof of enrollment or completion of DUI School and treatment, if referred, is required. Find out what the process is in your state and start working towards it—before it's too late. Failure to complete requirements for a reinstatement can result in cancellation of your driver license by the department. Unlike license revocation, license cancellation is permanent. Whatever state you are in, find an experienced attorney to help lead you on the way to reinstatement after license revocation.

Tip: Lawyers Can Help with Your License Revocation

Are you facing a license revocation and are worried that something that has become so necessary may become unavailable to you? Don't lay down in front of the train when it comes to license revocation. Prepare yourself by getting a lawyer who can help you contest the revocation. An experienced lawyer can challenge many factors that lead to your license revocation. Was your traffic stop justified? Did the officers follow the proper procedure during your stop? Try to remember every aspect of your circumstance so that

you can best inform your lawyer of what happened. The devil is in the details and, with all the facts in hand, a good lawyer can often successfully challenge your revocation and get you driving again in no time.

Category: MADD - Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Subcategory: MADD - Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Tip: A Crucial Bit of Assistance

While not all MADD chapters have the resources to do so, in some states, MADD advocates can accompany you to the courtroom in drunk driving-related court dates. If your family has been the victim of drunk driving, whether it is an underage drinking case, a repeat adult DUI offender, or any other kind of case, you may not have to face the court--or the offender--alone. In places such as Washington State, courtroom accompaniment services are available should you need it. If this program is not available in your area, ask what kinds of victim services are open to you. You may get some excellent information on community referral programs that can assist you in a time of great difficulty. Underage drinking, teen drunk driving, and other situations that can bring unexpected grief into your life don't have to be handled alone. MADD is there to help.

Tip: Is MADD an Anti-Alcohol Crusader?

Did you know that there is no place in the MADD charter for a prohibitionist attitude? MADD.org clearly spells out the position the organization takes on alcohol use. "MADD urges that those Americans of drinking age who choose to drink do so in a responsible manner, avoiding any driving after drinking." That statement can be found under MADD's "MADD's Positions on Responsible Marketing and Service " section of the MADD.org website. The reason it's important to point out this position? Many people mistakenly believe that in order to volunteer for the organization, they must adopt a "no alcohol" stance. MADD is opposed to any form of underage drinking, and is in favor of allowing victims of teen drunk driving to seek damages against bartenders who serve alcohol to minors illegally. If there is one thing MADD is definitely completely opposed to, it is the notion that any responsible adult could get away with violating underage drinking laws.

Tip: MADD and Sobriety Checkpoints

1 800 DUI LAWS Tip: Did you know that many lawyers understand that in underage drinking situations, there can be some confusion as to who the actual driver of the vehicle was? If the police charge the wrong person with a DUI in the presence of several minors at a sobriety checkpoint, the DUI lawyer will fight the underage drinking

and driving charge with a "no driver" or "non-driver" defense. DUI cases are often not open-and-shut affairs.

Tip: Mothers Against Drunk Driving - Brief History

Mothers Against Drunk Driving, or MADD, was founded in 1980 in the state of California. In its first few years, Mothers Against Drunk Driving was received well and by 1982, President Reagan invited them to be a member of his Presidential Commission on Drunk Driving. A year later, MADD moved their main offices to Texas. By 1998, Mothers Against Drunk Driving had spearheaded a zero tolerance initiative that passed in all 50 states. Born out of tragedy, MADD is now the foremost authority in drunk driving statistics, education, and prevention. For more information on Mothers Against Drunk Driving and their other initiatives, visit their website or any of their local offices.

Tip: Safe Parties

What does Mothers Against Drunk Drivers encourage in order to have a safe and sensible party environment? 1. Hosts should not rely on visual cues to tell them if someone is sober. MADD encourages hosts and hostesses to consider the amount of drinks a guest has consumed plus the amount of time spent not drinking. 2. MADD encourages people to forget about the perceived differences between wine, alcohol, and mixed drinks--a bottle of beer has the same amount of alcohol as a five ounce glass of wine. MADD encourages people to remember this factor when trying to help people stay responsible. 3. MADD's position on alcohol is quite clear. Underage drinking is illegal and should never be condoned or ignored by a party host. Situations like these can lead to violations of underage drinking law, and potential arrest for both underage drinkers and the host of the party.