

Updated Driver's License Administrative Sanctions Using New Technology

Overview of Strengthened DWI Sanctions Law — Effective July 1, 2011

The Impaired Driving Epidemic

Impaired driving remains a serious threat on Minnesota roads, accounting for one-third of all traffic deaths annually. One in seven Minnesota drivers has a DWI on record and 40 percent of those will re-offend. Further, each year, 40,000 Minnesotans are convicted driving with an invalid license.

Strengthened Sanctions

- First-time DWI offenders with a 0.16 and above alcohol-concentration level and all repeat DWI offenders will be required to have ignition interlock devices installed on any vehicle they drive.
- First-time DWI offenders with a 0.16 and above alcohol-concentration level and all repeat DWI offenders that choose not to use ignition interlocks will not have driving privileges ranging from one year to six years, depending on offense level.
- Interlock users will regain full driving privileges immediately after the offense, ensuring they are driving with a valid license and not a threat on the roadway.
- Interlocks will be used to monitor chronic DWI offenders to verify reinstatement requirements.

Benefits

- Safer roads and reduced criminal justice costs through the use of ignition interlock on high-risk drivers. Interlocks stop DWI offenders from driving after drinking and prevent re-arrests.
- Creates a method for offenders to obtain a valid driver's license — 75 percent of DWI offenders drive illegally after arrested.
- Encourages behavior modification and rehabilitation.

Ignition Interlock — A Proven Tool to Prevent Impaired Driving

An ignition interlock device connected to a car's electrical system can test a motorist's blood-alcohol content level before driving.

HOW THE DEVICE WORKS

- 1 Driver breathes into device for two to five seconds. If the level is 0.02% or above, the car will not start.
- 2 The device will indicate whether driver has passed or failed.

WHILE ON THE ROAD

- A driver must retake the test at random intervals. If the driver flunks the test and the device registers a "fail," the device will ask the user to take the vehicle in for early calibration.

MONITORING RESULTS

Every month, data from the device is monitored to see:

- Whether and when the driver committed violations.
- Whether the system was tampered with or disconnected.

Graphics created by Mark Boswell • Star Tribune, McClatchy Tribune

Offense	Current Law	New Law — Effective July 1, 2011
First-Time Offender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 month revocation of driving privileges. • 15 days no driving privileges and a limited license provided for remaining revocation period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 month revocation of driving privileges. • Driver has a choice of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 15 days no driving privileges and a limited license provided for remaining revocation period. 2. Full driving privileges provided for the revocation period with the use of ignition interlock.
First-Time Offender Test Refusal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 year revocation of driving privileges. • 15 days no driving privileges and a limited license provided for remaining revocation period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 year revocation of driving privileges. • Driver has a choice of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 15 days no driving privileges and a limited license provided for remaining revocation period. 2. Full driving privileges provided for the revocation period with the use of ignition interlock.
First-Time Offender High AC	<p>0.20 alcohol-concentration level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 months revocation of driving privileges. • 30 days no driving privileges and a limited license provided for remaining revocation period. 	<p>0.16 alcohol concentration level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 year revocation of driving privileges. • Full driving privileges provided with the use of ignition interlock.
Second-Time Offender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 months revocation of driving privileges. • 90 days no driving privileges. • Limited license provided for remaining revocation period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 year revocation of driving privileges. • Full driving privileges provided for revocation period with the use of ignition interlock.
Second-Time Offender High AC or Test Refusal	<p>0.20 alcohol-concentration level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 year revocation of driving privileges. • 6 months no driving privileges. • Limited license provided for remaining revocation period. 	<p>0.16 alcohol-concentration level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 year revocation of driving privileges. • Full driving privileges provided for revocation period with the use of ignition interlock.
Third, Fourth Fifth and Subsequent Offenses (Length of time is dependent on number of offenses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1, 3, or 6 years revocation /cancellation of driving privileges (based on number of times the person completed rehabilitation/reinstated a license).* • No driving privileges. <p>Conditions of reinstatement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1, 3 or 6 years demonstration of no alcohol or controlled substances use. • Completion of treatment. • Verified by five letters and AA attendance. • Life-long restriction of no alcohol or controlled substance use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3, 4 or 6 years revocation /cancellation of driving privileges.* • 1 year limited license provided with the use of ignition interlock. • 2, 3 or 5 years full driving privileges with the use of ignition interlock. <p>Conditions of Reinstatement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3, 4 or 6 years demonstration of no alcohol or controlled substances use. • Completion of treatment. • Verified by 3, 4 or 6 years of ignition interlock.* • 10 year restriction of no alcohol or controlled substance use (may remove if compliant for 10-year period). <p><i>*Time may be extended if alcohol use is detected</i></p>

