

**TRAFFIC LAW NEWSLETTER
Fall, 2001**

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!



As we enter the Holiday Season once again, my hope and prayer is that we can all slow down just a little to really remember why we celebrate the Season, and that we can enjoy a few moments with family and friends.

We were tragically reminded on 9/11 how precious life is and how quickly life can end. The legal system is important, but more important is how we treat our neighbors and ourselves; lawyers and judges need to be reminded that we deal with our "neighbor" everyday, and we should ask ourselves if we treat our neighbors as we would want to be treated.



HIGH COST OF DUI CONVICTION

Want to know why it may be cheaper to fight a DUI? Take a look at the potential cost of a DUI conviction:

1. LOSS OF JOB
2. COURT FINES: Minimum: \$300.00; Maximum: \$5,000.00
3. PROBATION FEES: \$33.00 per month, or \$396.00 per year;
4. DUI SCHOOL: \$265.00
5. ALCOHOL EVALUATION AND TREATMENT: \$1,500.00
6. INTERLOCK DEVICE(2ND AND SUBSEQUENT DUI): \$150.00 for installation and removal; \$360.00 for rental;
7. CAR INSURANCE: If you are not cancelled, then look to pay 25-50% increase in premiums;
8. LOSS OF CAR TAG: On 2nd or subsequent DUIs, your license plate is taken and car cannot be driven until license is restored.



IMPORTANT NEWS FOR TEENAGE DRIVERS!!

The new teen driving law goes into effect on January 1, 2002, and in particular affects 16-17 year olds. 16 and 17 year olds hold a Class D license. This type of license has the following restrictions:

1. During the first 6 months, a class D holder cannot have any passenger who is not an immediate family member;
2. After 6 months, a Class D holder cannot have more than 3 passengers under 21, unless they are immediate family;
3. Class D holders cannot drive between 12 midnite and 6 a.m. NO EXCEPTIONS!
4. Any Class D holder who accumulates 4 or more points during a 12 month period has the license suspended for a minimum 6 months;
5. Once reaching age 18, a Class D holder can apply for a Class C license only if they have held a valid D license for 12 months prior to such application.

Automatic license suspension for under 21: DUI, Leaving Scene of Accident, Racing, Fleeing, Reckless driving, Possession of alcohol while driving, attempting to purchase alcohol, possession of fictitious license, and any offense for which 4 or more points are assessed (speeding 24 miles over limit, passing school bus, aggressive driving); and in addition for 16-17 year olds, 2 or more moving violations in a consecutive 12 month period. Show your teens this and ask them if they really know how easy it is for them to lose their license.



SOMETHING DIFFERENT

With the coming new year, please take some time to review your insurance policies and wills. I have an Associate in my office who can advise you as to your Wills and Estate Planning needs. Please call if interested.

**MY 4 SIMPLE RULES
IF YOU ARE STOPPED BY POLICE**

1. DON'T ADMIT DRINKING (OR ANYTHING ELSE)
2. DON'T DO ANYTHING ON SIDE OF ROAD
3. DO TAKE BREATH TEST IF YOU'VE REALLY HAD 2 DRINKS
4. DON'T TAKE TEST IF MORE THAN 2 DRINKS*



* Refusing to take the State test (at jail or hospital) could result in losing your license for a full year; the only way of getting the license back earlier is to win the DUI; on the other hand, if the officer does not try to suspend the license because of a refusal, the State does not have a blood alcohol level to use against you!

**MY 1 SIMPLE RULE FOR PARENTS OF
CHILDREN UNDER AGE 21**

If your child gets a traffic ticket, regardless of how minor you may think it is, DO NOT PAY TICKET WITHOUT CALLING ME!!!

WHAT DO I DO IF STOPPED BY THE POLICE??

For the answer, [see my page on "your legal rights"](#) and [print out a copy](#) to keep in your car!



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Practice dedicated exclusively to defense of those accused of
DUI, serious traffic offenses, and drug offenses.
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