

THE FACTS ARE...

Driving is a privilege, and under Connecticut's **IMPLIED CONSENT LAW**, any person who operates a motor vehicle shall be deemed to have given his or her consent to a test to determine blood alcohol content (BAC).

You are legally intoxicated if your BAC is .08 or above. If you are under 21 years of age, you are legally intoxicated at a .02 BAC or higher.

Connecticut has enacted strong new measures to combat impaired driving. Stiff penalties, including mandatory sentencing and strict enforcement of our laws send a clear message:

Operating a motor vehicle under the influence will not be tolerated on Connecticut's roadways.

OPERATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (OUI)

In Connecticut, operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs is a criminal offense. This offense may be prosecuted with or without any direct evidence of a person's blood alcohol content (BAC). The determining factor is whether a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle has been impaired.

IF YOU ARE ARRESTED FOR OUI:

- You will be detained by the police and read your rights.
- Your vehicle may be towed at your expense.
- You will be transported in a police cruiser to the police station.
- You will be asked to submit to a blood, breath or urine test. If you refuse, the refusal may be admissible as evidence in your administrative license suspension hearing or criminal prosecution for operating under the influence.
- If you consent to testing, you will be given two tests at least ten minutes apart.
- If you refuse the test or if the test results show an elevated BAC or the presence of impairing drugs in your system, you will be subject to administrative and/or criminal penalties.
- You can be kept in a police lock-up.

TWO WAYS TO LOSE YOUR LICENSE:

There are two laws to protect the citizens of Connecticut from the impaired operator:

- DRIVER LICENSE SANCTIONS
- CRIMINAL PENALTIES

The DRIVER LICENSE SANCTIONS (license suspension periods) outlined below have been revised effective July 1, 2015 and can be imposed IN ADDITION TO CRIMINAL PENALTIES. In most cases, the driver license sanctions will be imposed much earlier. IN ALL CASES, they will be imposed in addition to criminal penalties and will appear on your driving record.

ADMINISTRATIVE PER SE SANCTIONS THROUGH DMV

Beginning with arrest dates on or after July 1, 2015, all driver license suspensions for failing or refusing a chemical alcohol test will be forty-five (45) days. The installation of an ignition interlock device (IID) will be required prior to restoration for ALL alcohol related suspensions. Following restoration, the IID must be maintained for at least the length of time listed below:

IID requirement for drivers under 21 years old			
Blood Alcohol Level	First Offense	Second Offense	Third or Subsequent Offense
Test results of .02 or higher	1 year	2 years	3 years
IID requirement for drivers 21 years old and older			
Blood Alcohol Level	First Offense	Second Offense	Third or Subsequent Offense
Test results of .08 or higher	6 months	1 year	2 years
IID requirement for ALL drivers			
Refusal of Test	First Offense	Second Offense	Third or Subsequent Offense
Refusal to submit to chemical testing	1 year	2 years	3 years

CRIMINAL PENALTIES

If the court proceedings result in a **conviction**, the following penalties must be imposed:

First Offense	Second Offense Within Connecticut or Out-Of-State (within 10 years of last conviction)	Third Offense (within 10 years of last conviction)
Fine: \$500 to \$1,000	Fine: \$1,000 to \$4,000	Fine: \$2,000 to \$8,000
Jail: Not more than 6 months jail, 48 consecutive hours of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner, or Not more than 6 months jail execution suspended and probation with 100 hours of community service in lieu of the 48 hours in jail	Jail: Not more than 2 years jail, 120 consecutive days of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner, and probation with 100 hours of community service and substance abuse evaluation and treatment if deemed necessary	Jail: Not more than 3 years jail, 1 year of which may not be suspended or reduced in any manner, and probation with 100 hours of community service and substance abuse evaluation and treatment if deemed necessary
License Suspension: 45 days Ignition Interlock Device: 1 year mandatory	License Suspension: 45 days Ignition Interlock Device: 3 years mandatory, during the first year may drive only to or from work, school, an alcohol or drug abuse treatment program, an IID service center, or an appointment with a probation officer	License Suspension: Revoked for life, but may apply for reinstatement after 2 years Ignition Interlock Device: If approved, must drive vehicle equipped with Ignition Interlock Device for lifetime, from date of reinstatement, but can request a hearing to have IID condition removed after 15 years

PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

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SUPPORTING AGENCIES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Office of Policy and Management (OPM)
- Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP)
- Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
- Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (CSSD)

Any amount of alcohol will affect the ability to operate a motor vehicle. Alcohol's effect is magnified by emotions, physical condition, use of prescription drugs or other types of drugs, some over-the-counter medications and some herbal supplements.

BAC AND AREAS OF IMPAIRMENT

	.08	concentrated attention, speed control
	.07	
	.06	
information processing, judgment	.05	
	.04	coordination
eye movement control, standing steadiness, emergency responses	.03	
	.02	tracking and steering
	.01	divided attention, choice reaction time, visual function

BAC

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Funded through the National Highway Traffic
Safety Administration.

Rev. 10/16

Connecticut's Impaired Driving Law

