

LifeSafer
Ignition Interlock



2024

DWI Arrest Resource Guide

Getting arrested for an alcohol-related driving offense can be an overwhelming experience. There are many factors that can influence your situation, such as the state where your conviction occurred, the circumstances of your arrest, and more.

There are also many things to consider while navigating the legal process—including choosing the best attorney, required insurance certificates, ignition interlock devices, and more.

This guide is meant to provide resources to help you understand and overcome your DUI/DWI with ease and confidence, so you can get back on the road quickly and safely.



DISCLAIMER:

The information presented in this guide is not legal advice and is subject to change without notice. You should seek appropriate counsel for the most up-to-date information relating to your own specific situation.

COMMON DUI TERMINOLOGY

DUI Charge Terms

These terms are similar but may be used in different states or depending on individual circumstances.

- **DUI: Driving Under the Influence**
- **DWI: Driving While Intoxicated**
- **OWI: Operating While Intoxicated/Impaired**
 - A criminal driving offense, usually pertaining to alcohol or drug use.

Ignition Interlock Terms

- **IID: Ignition Interlock Device**
 - A small, handheld device that connects to a vehicle's ignition system and measures the amount of alcohol in the user's breath.
- **BAIID: Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device**
 - Another term for an interlock device, used in some states such as Illinois.

Insurance Terms

- **SR-22 Insurance:** A form that verifies an individual has the required minimum liability driving insurance coverage. SR-22 is not technically insurance, but rather a form your insurance company files on your behalf to inform the state that you have appropriate coverage.
- **FR-44:** This form is used in Virginia and Florida and is similar to the SR-22 form in that it provides proof of financial responsibility. Unlike SR-22, which requires that drivers have the minimum amount of coverage, FR-44 requires liability coverage limits that are greater than the state minimums.

Additional Terms

- **Victim Impact Panel:** Some states may require individuals to attend Victim Impact Panels, or classes involving volunteers who have been seriously injured or have lost a loved one due to impaired driving.



CHOOSING AN ATTORNEY

In some cases, you may want to find an experienced attorney to represent you. If you are facing serious criminal charges, DUI lawyers can help you obtain the most favorable outcomes to your case. Though every DUI/DWI situation is unique, there are a few considerations you should make when searching for and choosing an attorney.

Experience

Find an attorney who has experience in alcohol-related offenses. Just because a lawyer has a license doesn't make them a DUI expert. Look for lawyers who specialize in DWI cases and have experience defending against alcohol-related cases.

Recommendations

Good word-of-mouth is some of the best marketing around—just because a lawyer has a billboard doesn't always make them the best. Ask people you know or other attorneys if they have referrals to those specializing in DUI cases.

Cost/Fees

When choosing an attorney, always ask how they bill their clients. Some attorneys charge hourly while some use retainers or even a flat fee. Pricing can vary greatly based on your location and individual circumstances. DUIs can become expensive very quickly—so invest in a lawyer with a proven track record.

Meetings

Many lawyers offer free consultations, so take advantage! Meet with a few attorneys and ask them questions to determine if they are the right fit for you. Don't be afraid to "interview" them—after all, they are representing you and your future. You can use your state bar website to help find local attorneys in your state as well as additional resources to find the best lawyer for your needs.



CHOOSING AN SR-22/FR-44 PROVIDER

Depending on your specific situation, you may need to obtain an SR-22 or FR-44 certificate as proof of insurance. Most states require one of these forms—it's always a good idea to check with your state to see if this is a requirement.

When researching SR-22 providers, consider the following:

Customer Service

Going through all the steps to absolve your DUI can be stressful and time consuming, so choose an insurance company with highly rated customer service to make the process as smooth as possible.

Price

Find an insurance provider that fits within your budget—keep in mind all the associated fees that come with DUIs.

Experience

Do your research and find a qualified insurance company that provide SR-22 or FR-44 forms to ensure you are following all legal obligations.



CHOOSING AN INTERLOCK PROVIDER

In order to retain your driving privileges after a DUI, you may be required to install an ignition interlock device in your vehicle prior to receiving your special IID driver's license. There are many interlock providers out there, some states even have local brands. It's important to do your research so you can find the best possible device for your situation.

As you are trying to decide which interlock provider to pick, you may want to consider the following factors.

Device Characteristics

Because you will be using this device every time you drive—which could be multiple times a day—there are several IID characteristics to take note of.

Size

A smaller and more discreet device will be less visible, less cumbersome, and easier to use while taking tests.

Reliability

You want to make sure the IID you pick is reliable and provides accurate results and prevents false positives while testing.

Battery Life

Ignition interlock devices will drain your car battery even when the vehicle is off. You may want to consider an IID that has minimal battery drain to preserve your car battery when not in use.

Hygienic

Because you lease interlock devices, you want to choose the most hygienic option. Keep this in mind as you research blow patterns and how to use different brands of devices.



Industry Experience

Because there are so many companies to choose from, it can be overwhelming to research and find the best IID provider for you. Though some providers may be less expensive, you want to make sure you pick one with long-standing industry experience. This will not only help streamline your IID process, but providers that have been in the industry can better help you meet your interlock requirements so you can get back on the road quickly.

Additionally, interlock providers that have industry expertise will often have more knowledgeable agents, better customer service, and better performing devices.

Location Coverage

Many interlock devices need periodic calibrations and testing to ensure they are working properly. You will want to find a provider that offers convenient locations near your home, work, or other places you frequently visit. This will not only save you time but make it easier for you to keep appointments. Remember, even missing calibration appointments can cost you money and be detrimental to your IID requirements.

Additional Considerations

Price can be a big factor when it comes to choosing an interlock provider. When doing your research, be sure to ask about pricing structures—many providers require up-front, calibration, or other hidden fees that aren't always included in initial pricing quotes. Don't be afraid to ask about additional fees you may have to pay during your device lease.

Ignition interlock providers are not created equal—some offer convenient benefits such as mobile installation or same-day installation. If you are busy or pressed for time, these are some great benefits to consider when choosing an interlock provider.

Navigating the DUI process can be a stressful time, so picking an IID provider that has great customer service will make the process that much easier. Ensure the interlock provider you choose has friendly and knowledgeable agents that can direct you on next steps and help you every step of the way.



CONCLUSION

If you have been arrested for a DUI/DWI, there are many elements to consider as you navigate the legal processes. For many, this may often be your first interaction with law enforcement. We hope this guide provides information and resources to make it a bit simpler for you. Refer to this guide whenever you need it and remember to drive safely!

