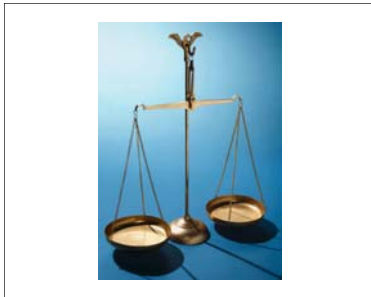




What Are The Penalties of Driving Under the Influence?

by Wayne K. Ekren, Esq.

DUI penalties are court ordered criminal violations. Most states are taking a hard line on DUI, including a zero tolerance for underage drivers. But no matter the age, even first time DUI offenders receive significant fines, jail time, probation, license suspensions, community service, and/or driver training programs. The penalties become far more extensive and punitive as the number of convictions increase.



[Penalties in Florida for DUI](#)

What Are the Risks of DUI?

Besides the significant risk of a criminal charge of DUI, consider the risk of causing an accident and injuring yourself or others while DUI. The amount of auto accidents and deaths related to driving while under the influence is staggering. Auto accidents just don't involve the driver under the influence, but innocent victims that are traveling the same roadways.

How does the public combat such life threatening activity? It is done by drafting laws that give police the right to observe and immediately detain potentially impaired drivers who might be about to cause an accident, such as our example above. It also specifically mandates the court to penalize at risk drivers who threaten the public safety.

How To Avoid DUI and Related Traffic Violations

- Never drink and drive!
- Always be aware of side effects and combinations of medications. Just a small reduction in reflexes, speed of response or mental alertness can cause a momentary "reckless" driving episode. If the medications you are taking cause drowsiness or a change in physical abilities, do not drive.
- If you do have a drink with alcohol, the best advice is to find a non drinker to be a designated driver, or call a taxi. Why chance it?
- If you are working around chemicals of any kind and fumes are inhaled or the chemical could be absorbed through your skin, be aware that an impairment of your physical and mental abilities is possible. Don't drive.

This article was written by Wayne K. Ekren, Esq. It is informational in nature and does not imply directly or indirectly any legal advice nor should it be used for any legal purpose whatsoever.