

NOTICE

In a further effort to crack down on drunk drivers in Alaska, the last legislature made important changes in the Driving While Intoxicated laws. Effective October 17, 1983 (12:01 a.m., Pacific Standard Time), the law provides:

- If you are in a traffic accident or are suspected of having committed a moving traffic violation you may be required to take an on-the-spot preliminary breath examination. Refusal to take the preliminary breath examination is an infraction, punishable by a fine of up to \$300.
- If you are convicted for the first time of D.W.I. you will be sentenced to a minimum of **72 consecutive hours in jail** and a fine of \$250.
- If you are arrested for D.W.I. you must take a breathalyzer or intoximeter test. **Refusal to take a breath test** is a separate crime, punishable upon a first conviction by a minimum of **72 consecutive hours in jail** and a fine of \$250.
- If you are convicted of D.W.I. or refusal to take a breath test and you have a **previous conviction** for either a D.W.I. or a refusal within the past 10 years you will be sentenced to a minimum of **20 consecutive days in jail** and a fine of \$500.
- If you are convicted of D.W.I. or refusal to take a breath test and you have **two prior convictions** for either D.W.I. or refusal within the past 10 years you will be sentenced to a minimum of **30 consecutive days in jail** and a fine of \$1,000. Additionally, your motor vehicle may be permanently forfeited to the state.
- The police must immediately seize your driver's license if you are arrested for D.W.I. and you refuse to take a breath test or your breath test shows a breath alcohol reading of .10 or higher. A temporary driver's license, valid for seven days, will be issued to you. Your license is automatically revoked by the Department of Public Safety unless, within the seven day period, you file a written request for an administrative hearing challenging the license revocation. A revocation for a first offense is for 90 days; for a second offense, one year; and for a third offense, 10 years.
- If your license was revoked after conviction for D.W.I. or refusal, and you drive during the revocation period, you may be prosecuted for the crime of driving while license revoked. Upon conviction, if your license revocation was for a first offense, you will be sentenced to a minimum of 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine; if your license revocation was for a second or subsequent offense, you will be sentenced to a minimum of 90 days in jail and a fine of \$1,000. You will also lose your license for an additional year.
- If you are a driver who has been involved in an accident which resulted in injury to another person, a sample of your blood may be drawn to be analyzed for alcohol content without your consent.