ALABAMA · DUI CHECKLIST

Alabama DUI Checklist

What to do today, this week, and before your court date. Print it. Check things off. One step at a time.

YOUR FIRST DEADLINE

10 days to act on your Administrative License Suspension (ALS)

The written request must reach ALEA's Driver License Division in Montgomery, or be postmarked, within 10 days of the notice of intended suspension. A hearing request does not stay the suspension, which starts 45 days after the notice; the officer's temporary permit lasts 30 days. A separate written administrative review can be requested within 90 days, and a request made within 10 days is decided before the suspension starts. After the hearing you have 30 days to petition the circuit court in the county of arrest.

Who: Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA), Driver License Division

KEY FACTS

SUSPENSION, 1ST FAILED TEST
90 days

SUSPENSION, 1ST REFUSAL
90 days

1ST OFFENSE CHARGE
Misdemeanor

1ST OFFENSE FINE
$600 to $2,100

1ST OFFENSE JAIL
Up to 1 year

INSURANCE FILING
Proof of insurance required; see your guide

PRIOR OFFENSES
Priors within 10 years count

IGNITION INTERLOCK
Required for a first DUI at 0.15 or more, with a passenger under 14, after a refusal, or after a crash that injured someone, and for every repeat DUI. For a first DUI under 0.15 you may choose it to stay the suspension.

1 First 24 Hours

- [ ] **Administrative License Suspension (ALS): act within 10 days. The written request must reach ALEA's Driver License Division in Montgomery, or be postmarked, within 10 days of the notice of intended suspension. A hearing request does not stay the suspension, which starts 45 days after the notice; the officer's temporary permit lasts 30 days. A separate written administrative review can be requested within 90 days, and a request made within 10 days is decided before the suspension starts. After the hearing you have 30 days to petition the circuit court in the county of arrest.**

- [ ] Find your notice of intended suspension — If you tested 0.08 or more or refused, the officer serves a notice of intended suspension and takes your license, giving you a 30-day temporary permit. The notice starts the 10-day clock, and the suspension starts 45 days after it.
- [ ] Request the ALS hearing within 10 days — Send a written hearing request to ALEA's Driver License Division in Montgomery. It must arrive, or be postmarked, within 10 days. A request does not put the suspension on hold.
- [ ] Ask about an interlock restricted license — To keep driving during a suspension, Alabama uses an ignition interlock restricted license. ALEA's hardship license is not available after a DUI conviction.
- [ ] Check for doubling factors — A BAC of 0.15 or more, or a child under 14 in the car, doubles the minimum punishment and requires interlock. A refusal or an injury crash also makes interlock mandatory.
- [ ] Talk to a lawyer before the hearing — The ALS hearing and the criminal DUI case are separate. If the hearing goes against you, you have 30 days to petition the circuit court in the county of arrest.

2 Court

- [ ] Arrest and charge — A city officer usually files the DUI in municipal court. A state or county officer usually files it in district court.
- [ ] Arraignment — You appear, hear the charge, and enter a plea of guilty or not guilty.
- [ ] Pretrial — Your lawyer can request discovery, challenge the stop or the test, and negotiate with the prosecutor.
- [ ] Bench trial or plea — Municipal and district courts try DUIs without a jury. A jury is available only on appeal to circuit court.
- [ ] Sentencing and Court Referral — On conviction, the judge sets jail, fine, and probation and refers you to the Court Referral Program for a substance abuse evaluation.
- [ ] Appeal for a new trial — You have 14 days from sentencing to appeal to circuit court for a trial de novo, where you can demand a jury.

3 Getting Your License Back

- [ ] Alabama Court Referral Program (DUI or substance abuse court referral program): Everyone convicted of DUI is referred to the court referral officer for evaluation and must at least complete a DUI or substance abuse court referral program, at their own cost. ALEA will not reissue a license without proof of completion.
- [ ] Ignition interlock: Required for a first DUI at 0.15 or more, with a passenger under 14, after a refusal, or after a crash that injured someone, and for every repeat DUI. For a first DUI under 0.15 you may choose it to stay the suspension.
- [ ] Get proof of insurance before you reinstate your license.
- [ ] Ask about a Ignition interlock restricted driver license: The judge sends an order to ALEA after conviction. Install an approved interlock, send ALEA proof of installation, and pay the $150 license fee.

Your full Alabama DUI guide

Deadlines, penalties, the court process, license hearings, and FAQs, with links to the official sources.

https://dui911.org/alabama

Official source for your license deadline: https://www.alea.gov/dps/driver-license/license-and-id-cards/hardship-driver-license

This checklist is educational and is not legal advice. Laws, deadlines and fees change; confirm them with the agency or a licensed Alabama attorney before you rely on them. DUI911.org is not a law firm and is not affiliated with any law firm, interlock company or insurer.