ARKANSAS · DWI CHECKLIST

Arkansas DWI 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

7 days to act on your DUI/DWI administrative hearing (Office of Driver Services, Driver Control)

7 calendar days to request a hearing with a Driver Control Hearing Officer. The DFA hearing page says the request must be made within 7 calendar days of notice being given, which is when the officer gives you the Official Driver's License Receipt and Notice of Suspension at arrest. The receipt lets you drive for 30 days if your license was valid. If the hearing cannot be held within 20 days, a temporary permit is issued until the hearing date.

Who: Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Driver Services

KEY FACTS

SUSPENSION, 1ST FAILED TEST
6-month suspension (DWI alcohol)

SUSPENSION, 1ST REFUSAL
180-day suspension

1ST OFFENSE CHARGE
Misdemeanor

1ST OFFENSE FINE
$150 to $1,000

1ST OFFENSE JAIL
24 hours to 1 year (7 days to 1 year with a passenger under 16)

INSURANCE FILING
Proof of insurance required; see your guide

PRIOR OFFENSES
Priors within 10 years count

IGNITION INTERLOCK
Required for DWI alcohol suspensions. You file a Confirmation of Interlock Requirement with Driver Control. An interlock restricted license is available immediately for a first, second, or third alcohol DWI, but not for a drug DWI or a fourth DWI within 5 years.

1 First 24 Hours

- [ ] **DUI/DWI administrative hearing (Office of Driver Services, Driver Control): act within 7 days. 7 calendar days to request a hearing with a Driver Control Hearing Officer. The DFA hearing page says the request must be made within 7 calendar days of notice being given, which is when the officer gives you the Official Driver's License Receipt and Notice of Suspension at arrest. The receipt lets you drive for 30 days if your license was valid. If the hearing cannot be held within 20 days, a temporary permit is issued until the hearing date.**
- [ ] Keep your Official Driver's License Receipt — The officer took your license and gave you a receipt and a Notice of Suspension (ALS form). The receipt lets you drive for 30 days if your license was valid.
- [ ] Request a hearing within 7 calendar days — Use the DFA online hearing request or the Administrative DUI/DWI Hearing Request Form. The hearing is with a Driver Control Hearing Officer.
- [ ] Know where the hearing will be — It is held at the DFA Revenue office nearest the county where you were arrested. Office of Driver Services: (501) 371-5581.
- [ ] Plan for interlock and alcohol education — Reinstatement after a DWI alcohol suspension requires an ignition interlock, an alcohol education program, a victim impact panel, and a $150 fee.
- [ ] Talk to a lawyer about the court case — The criminal DWI case is separate from the suspension. Ask how a prior within 10 years or a child passenger changes your charge.

2 Court

- [ ] Arrest and citation — A misdemeanor DWI is filed in the District Court for the city or county where you were arrested.
- [ ] Arraignment — At your first appearance, you hear the DWI charge and enter a plea.
- [ ] Pretrial — Your lawyer can ask for the evidence, challenge the stop or test, and talk with the prosecutor.
- [ ] Bench trial or plea — District Court decides the case without a jury. If convicted, the judge sets jail, fines, and the suspension.
- [ ] Appeal to Circuit Court — You can appeal a District Court conviction to Circuit Court for a new trial. File within 30 days of the judgment; late appeals are not accepted.

3 Getting Your License Back

- [ ] Drug & Alcohol Safety Education Program (DASEP): Anyone suspended for DWI must finish a state-approved alcohol education program or licensed treatment program before reinstatement. DASEP includes screening and 12 to 15 hours of education. The provider sends proof of completion to Driver Services.
- [ ] Ignition interlock: Required for DWI alcohol suspensions. You file a Confirmation of Interlock Requirement with Driver Control. An interlock restricted license is available immediately for a first, second, or third alcohol DWI, but not for a drug DWI or a fourth DWI within 5 years.
- [ ] Get proof of insurance before you reinstate your license.

- [ ] Ask about a Interlock restricted license (or restricted driving permit): Request an uncontested hearing with Driver Control (Office of Driver Services). File the Confirmation of Interlock Requirement form after installing the device.

Your full Arkansas DWI guide

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

https://dui911.org/arkansas

Official source for your license deadline:
https://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/office/driver-services/dui-dwi-information/dui-dwi-administrative-hearing/

This checklist is educational and is not legal advice. Laws, deadlines and fees change; confirm them with the agency or a licensed Arkansas 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.