GEORGIA · DUI CHECKLIST

Georgia 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

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

30 calendar days from the serve date printed on the DDS Form 1205 (usually the arrest date). Within that window you choose: request an ALS hearing (DDS-1206, $150 fee) or install an ignition interlock and apply for an interlock limited permit. If you do neither, the suspension starts on the 46th day after the serve date.

Who: Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS); hearings held by the Office of State Administrative Hearings (OSAH)

KEY FACTS

SUSPENSION, 1ST FAILED TEST

30-day minimum suspension for a first test failure (0.08 or more) in 5 years, with a limited driving permit available; 18 months for a second within 5 years

SUSPENSION, 1ST REFUSAL

1 year, with no regular limited driving permit; an eligible first-time refuser may choose an ignition interlock limited permit within 30 days instead of a hearing

1ST OFFENSE CHARGE

Misdemeanor

1ST OFFENSE FINE

$300–$1,000

1ST OFFENSE JAIL

24 hours to 12 months

INSURANCE FILING

No special filing required

PRIOR OFFENSES

Priors within 10 years count

IGNITION INTERLOCK

Required for a second or later DUI within 5 years, unless the court exempts you for financial hardship. After an ALS, you can choose an Ignition Interlock Device Limited Permit instead of a hearing.

1 First 24 Hours

- [ ] **Administrative License Suspension (ALS): act within 30 days. 30 calendar days from the serve date printed on the DDS Form 1205 (usually the arrest date). Within that window you choose: request an ALS hearing (DDS-1206, $150 fee) or install an ignition interlock and apply for an interlock limited permit. If you do neither, the suspension starts on the 46th day after the serve date.**

- [ ] Find your DDS Form 1205 — The officer serves it at arrest. It is your 30-day temporary permit, and the serve date on the front starts the 30-day clock.
- [ ] Choose within 30 days: hearing or interlock permit — Request an ALS hearing with form DDS-1206 and the $150 fee, or install an ignition interlock and apply for an interlock limited permit. You cannot take both paths.
- [ ] Don't let day 46 arrive by default — If you do nothing, your license is suspended starting on the 46th day after the serve date.
- [ ] Watch for the OSAH hearing notice — If you request a hearing, the Office of State Administrative Hearings mails you the date, time, and place.
- [ ] Write down what happened — Where you were stopped, what you drank and when, and exactly what the officer read before asking for a test. The implied consent notice matters at the hearing.
- [ ] Talk to a lawyer before choosing — The hearing is a chance to question the officer under oath. The interlock permit keeps you driving but gives up that hearing.

2 Court

- [ ] Arrest and citation — The officer charges the DUI on a Uniform Traffic Citation and serves the DDS Form 1205. You are usually released on bond with a court date.
- [ ] Arraignment — You come to court and enter a plea. If you want a jury trial, the case is transferred to state or superior court.
- [ ] Pretrial motions and discovery — Your lawyer gets the police report, video, and test records, and can ask the court to suppress evidence from the stop or the test.
- [ ] Plea or trial — Most cases end in a plea or a trial. Georgia does not allow First Offender treatment for DUI, so a guilty or nolo plea counts as a conviction.
- [ ] Sentencing — A first DUI brings at least 24 hours in jail, 40 hours of community service, a fine, and the DUI Risk Reduction Program. Some counties run DUI accountability courts with closer supervision.

3 Getting Your License Back

- [ ] DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program (DUI Intervention Program): Required after any DUI conviction. It has two parts: an assessment and a 20-hour intervention course. You need the certificate of completion to reinstate after a first DUI. A clinical evaluation, and any treatment it recommends, is required for a second DUI within 10 years; a court can also order one on a first DUI as a probation condition.
- [ ] Ignition interlock: Required for a second or later DUI within 5 years, unless the court exempts you for financial hardship. After an ALS, you can choose an Ignition Interlock Device Limited Permit instead of a hearing.

- [ ] Ask about a Limited driving permit (Ignition Interlock Device Limited Permit after an ALS): At conviction, ask the court for a First DUI Alcohol/Drugs Conviction Permit Referral (DDS-1126), then apply at a DDS customer service center. For the interlock permit after an ALS, install the device within the 30-day window and apply to DDS.

Your full Georgia DUI guide

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

https://dui911.org/georgia

Official source for your license deadline: https://dds.georgia.gov/dui-faqs

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