KENTUCKY · DUI CHECKLIST

Kentucky DUI Checklist

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

YOUR LICENSE CASE

Court-ordered pretrial suspension (no separate DMV administrative hearing)

Kentucky has no administrative per se suspension and no DMV hearing to request. Under KRS 189A.200, the court suspends the license at arraignment if you refused testing, have a prior DUI or a prior refusal suspension within 10 years, or were in an accident that killed or seriously injured someone else. You may file a motion for judicial review of the suspension, and the court must conduct the review within 30 days after the motion is filed.

Who: Kentucky district court; suspensions carried out by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Division of Driver Licensing

KEY FACTS

SUSPENSION, 1ST FAILED TEST

No pretrial suspension for a first offense without a refusal. On conviction: 6 months (4 months with an interlock license)

SUSPENSION, 1ST REFUSAL

Suspended at arraignment until the case ends; the court suspends for the period that would apply on conviction

1ST OFFENSE CHARGE

Misdemeanor

1ST OFFENSE FINE

$200 to $500

1ST OFFENSE JAIL

48 hours to 30 days (4 days minimum with an aggravating circumstance)

INSURANCE FILING

No special filing required

PRIOR OFFENSES

Priors within 10 years count

IGNITION INTERLOCK

Through the Kentucky Ignition Interlock Program (KIIP), an ignition interlock license is the only license you can get during an alcohol-related DUI suspension (KRS 189A.340). Choosing it shortens the suspension. During a pretrial suspension, the court may require you to apply for one after a refusal, and must require it if you have a prior DUI or refusal suspension within 10 years or caused an accident that killed or seriously injured someone (KRS 189A.200).

1 First 24 Hours

- [ ] **Court-ordered pretrial suspension (no separate DMV administrative hearing): Kentucky has no administrative per se suspension and no DMV hearing to request. Under KRS 189A.200, the court suspends the license at arraignment if you refused testing, have a prior DUI or a prior refusal suspension within 10 years, or were in an accident that killed or seriously injured someone else. You may file a motion for judicial review of the suspension, and the court must conduct the review within 30 days after the motion is filed.**
- [ ] Read your uniform citation — It shows whether the officer recorded a refusal. A refusal or a prior DUI within 10 years means the judge will suspend your license at arraignment.
- [ ] Get ready for arraignment — There is no DMV hearing to request in Kentucky. Your license is handled in district court, so do not miss your first court date.
- [ ] Bring your license to court — If the judge orders a pretrial suspension, you must surrender your license to the court right away. That time counts toward any later suspension.
- [ ] Ask about an ignition interlock license — Through KIIP, you can apply to the Transportation Cabinet with form TC 94-175. It can cut your suspension period.
- [ ] Talk to a lawyer — Aggravating circumstances like 0.15 or more, a refusal, or a child under 12 in the car raise the mandatory jail time.

2 Court

- [ ] Arrest and citation — The officer charges you under KRS 189A.010. There is no separate DMV hearing; the court handles your license.
- [ ] Arraignment in district court — If you refused testing or have a prior DUI in 10 years, the judge suspends your license at arraignment under KRS 189A.200. You surrender your license to the court.
- [ ] Pretrial — Your lawyer reviews the evidence and talks with the prosecutor. The case is set for plea or trial.
- [ ] Plea or trial — The case ends with a guilty plea, a dismissal, or a trial.
- [ ] Sentencing — On conviction the court sets jail or community labor, fines, and the license suspension. It also orders alcohol or substance abuse education or treatment.

3 Getting Your License Back

- [ ] Kentucky DUI Program (alcohol or substance abuse assessment, education, and treatment): A DUI conviction comes with a court order to a licensed DUI program. A certified assessor uses the Kentucky DUI Assessment Instrument to place you in education, treatment, or both. For a first offense the program lasts 90 days under KRS 189A.040, though you can finish early. You must enroll within 10 days of the entry of judgment (KRS 189A.045), and you can't get your full license back until you finish.

- [ ] Ignition interlock: Through the Kentucky Ignition Interlock Program (KIIP), an ignition interlock license is the only license you can get during an alcohol-related DUI suspension (KRS 189A.340). Choosing it shortens the suspension. During a pretrial suspension, the court may require you to apply for one after a refusal, and must require it if you have a prior DUI or refusal suspension within 10 years or caused an accident that killed or seriously injured someone (KRS 189A.200).
- [ ] Ask about a Ignition interlock license (Kentucky Ignition Interlock Program, KIIP): Apply directly to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet with the Ignition Interlock Application, form TC 94-175. Email it to KIIP@ky.gov or mail it to the Division of Driver Licensing, 200 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40622. Circuit clerks cannot process it.

Your full Kentucky DUI guide

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

https://dui911.org/kentucky

Official source for your license deadline: https://drive.ky.gov/Drivers/Pages/DUI.aspx

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