MARYLAND · DUI CHECKLIST

Maryland 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 MVA administrative hearing (Order of Suspension, DR-15A)

You can request a hearing up to 30 days after the date of the Order of Suspension. Request it within 10 days to keep driving until the hearing. With no request in 10 days (and no Ignition Interlock election in 30), the suspension starts on the 46th day. The request goes to the Office of Administrative Hearings with a $150 fee.

Who: Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA); hearings held by the Office of Administrative Hearings

KEY FACTS

SUSPENSION, 1ST FAILED TEST

180 days (0.08 or more)

SUSPENSION, 1ST REFUSAL

270 days

1ST OFFENSE CHARGE

Misdemeanor (DUI); DWI is a lesser misdemeanor

1ST OFFENSE FINE

DUI: up to $1,200. DWI: up to $500

1ST OFFENSE JAIL

DUI: up to 1 year. DWI: up to 2 months

INSURANCE FILING

No special filing required

PRIOR OFFENSES

Priors within 5 years count

IGNITION INTERLOCK

Under Noah's Law, a conviction or probation before judgment for DUI or DWI (alcohol) requires the Ignition Interlock Program, as do an MVA suspension for DUI or DWI, a homicide or life-threatening injury by vehicle involving alcohol, and a court order. A refusal or a result of 0.15 or more requires a year of interlock to drive during the MVA suspension. Since October 1, 2026, violating an under-21 alcohol restriction also requires it before the suspension can be modified. You can also elect it to keep driving during an MVA suspension.

1 First 24 Hours

- [ ] **MVA administrative hearing (Order of Suspension, DR-15A): act within 30 days. You can request a hearing up to 30 days after the date of the Order of Suspension. Request it within 10 days to keep driving until the hearing. With no request in 10 days (and no Ignition Interlock election in 30), the suspension starts on the 46th day. The request goes to the Office of Administrative Hearings with a $150 fee.**
- [ ] Find your Order of Suspension (DR-15A) — The officer takes your license and gives you the DR-15A. It acts as a 45-day temporary license and starts both MVA deadlines.
- [ ] Request the MVA hearing within 10 days — Send a written request to the Office of Administrative Hearings with the $150 fee. Within 10 days, you keep driving until the hearing. After 10 days and up to 30, you can still get a hearing, but the suspension may start first.
- [ ] Decide on the Ignition Interlock Program by day 30 — Electing interlock in writing within 30 days lets you keep driving instead of serving the suspension. A refusal or 0.15+ result requires 1 year.
- [ ] Write down what happened — Where you were stopped, what you drank and when, which tests you took or refused, and what you were told. Details fade fast.
- [ ] Talk to a lawyer about DUI versus DWI — Whether the case ends as DUI, DWI or probation before judgment changes points, interlock and record options.

2 Court

- [ ] Arrest and charging — You get citations for DUI and often DWI under §21-902, plus the DR-15 Advice of Rights for the MVA case.
- [ ] Trial date in District Court — The case starts in the District Court, which has no juries; a judge hears the case.
- [ ] Decide on a jury trial — When the penalty allows more than 90 days in jail, you can demand a jury trial any time before the District Court trial. The case then moves to the circuit court. A first DWI (up to 2 months) does not carry that right.
- [ ] Plea or trial — The officer testifies and you can present your side. The judge decides guilty or not guilty, or the case ends in a plea.
- [ ] Disposition — The outcome may be a DUI or DWI conviction or a probation before judgment. Since October 1, 2024, a PBJ for DUI or DWI also requires the Ignition Interlock Program.

3 Getting Your License Back

- [ ] Alcohol Education Program (AEP) or Alcohol Treatment Program: After a DUI or DWI conviction, the MVA may send a referral letter. You get an alcohol assessment, which sends you to the 12-hour AEP or a longer 26-session Alcohol Treatment Program. Start within 90 days of the due date in the letter and send the provider's completion letter. A court must also order a comprehensive alcohol abuse assessment, and a program if one is recommended, when a DUI conviction comes within 5 years of a prior one.

- [ ] Ignition interlock: Under Noah's Law, a conviction or probation before judgment for DUI or DWI (alcohol) requires the Ignition Interlock Program, as do an MVA suspension for DUI or DWI, a homicide or life-threatening injury by vehicle involving alcohol, and a court order. A refusal or a result of 0.15 or more requires a year of interlock to drive during the MVA suspension. Since October 1, 2026, violating an under-21 alcohol restriction also requires it before the suspension can be modified. You can also elect it to keep driving during an MVA suspension.
- [ ] Ask about a Ignition Interlock Program (interlock-restricted license): Elect the Ignition Interlock Program with the MVA as described on the DR-15 Advice of Rights, or follow the MVA, court, or administrative law judge referral.

Your full Maryland DUI guide

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

https://dui911.org/maryland

Official source for your license deadline:
https://mva.maryland.gov/your-mva-guide/drivers-revoked-or-suspended-licenses/driving-under-influence-dui

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