MISSOURI · DWI CHECKLIST

Missouri 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

15 days to act on your DOR administrative alcohol hearing (Form 2385); refusal cases go to circuit court

15 days from receipt of the Notice of Suspension or Revocation (Form 2385), per RSMo 302.530. The notice is usually served at arrest, so count from that day. The request must be received by or postmarked to the DOR General Counsel's Office, or faxed. If you miss it, the suspension starts on day 15 and no appeal is possible. For a test refusal, the deadline is instead 30 days to petition the circuit court.

Who: Missouri Department of Revenue (DOR), Driver License Bureau

KEY FACTS

SUSPENSION, 1ST FAILED TEST

30 days suspension, then 60 days restricted driving privilege (or an immediate 90-day interlock privilege); 1-year revocation with a prior alcohol contact in 5 years

SUSPENSION, 1ST REFUSAL

1 year revocation

1ST OFFENSE CHARGE

Class B misdemeanor

1ST OFFENSE FINE

Up to $1,000

1ST OFFENSE JAIL

Up to 6 months

INSURANCE FILING

SR-22 for 2 years

PRIOR OFFENSES

No time limit. All prior offenses count.

IGNITION INTERLOCK

Required to reinstate if your record shows more than one alcohol- or drug-related enforcement contact, or after a conviction with a BAC of 0.15 or more, or with injury or property damage. Under the law effective August 28, 2026 (HB 1740), the 60-day restricted driving privilege after a first administrative suspension must also show an interlock requirement, and no restricted privilege is issued after a 0.15 conviction until an interlock is installed. An interlock is also required for a restricted privilege after a refusal.

1 First 24 Hours

- [ ] **DOR administrative alcohol hearing (Form 2385); refusal cases go to circuit court: act within 15 days. 15 days from receipt of the Notice of Suspension or Revocation (Form 2385), per RSMo 302.530. The notice is usually served at arrest, so count from that day. The request must be received by or postmarked to the DOR General Counsel's Office, or faxed. If you miss it, the suspension starts on day 15 and no appeal is possible. For a test refusal, the deadline is instead 30 days to petition the circuit court.**
- [ ] Find your Form 2385 or refusal notice — The officer takes your license and gives you a Notice of Suspension or Revocation. It works as a 15-day temporary permit and starts your deadline.
- [ ] Failed a test? Request the DOR hearing within 15 days — Send the Request for Administrative Hearing to the DOR General Counsel's Office by mail or fax. Choose an in-person or phone hearing. Miss it and the suspension starts on day 15 with no appeal.
- [ ] Refused? File a circuit court petition within 30 days — There's no DOR hearing for a refusal. File a petition for review in the circuit or associate circuit court in the county where you were stopped.
- [ ] Write down what happened — Where you were stopped, what you drank and when, which tests you took or refused, and what the officer said. Details fade fast.
- [ ] Plan for SATOP and an SR-22 — Reinstatement needs SATOP, an SR-22 for 2 years and a $45 fee. Talk to a lawyer about your criminal case and any restricted driving privilege.

2 Court

- [ ] Arrest and charge — A city DWI ordinance case goes to the municipal division. A state charge goes to the associate circuit division in the county of arrest. Your license case with the Department of Revenue runs separately.
- [ ] Arraignment — Your first formal court date. You hear the charge and plead guilty or not guilty. If you don't plead, the judge enters not guilty for you.
- [ ] Pretrial and plea talks — Your lawyer reviews the evidence, such as the breath test and video, and may negotiate with the prosecutor.
- [ ] Trial or plea — If there is no plea agreement, the case is tried before a judge or jury.
- [ ] Sentencing — A first DWI can get a suspended imposition of sentence (SIS) only with at least 2 years of probation. Where a DWI court exists and your BAC was 0.15 or more, SIS also requires completing DWI court or other court-ordered treatment.

3 Getting Your License Back

- [ ] Substance Awareness Traffic Offender Program (SATOP): Required to reinstate your license after any alcohol-related suspension or revocation, including an administrative one. You must also complete the SATOP assessment and recommended course before a hardship license after a DWI conviction.

- [ ] Ignition interlock: Required to reinstate if your record shows more than one alcohol- or drug-related enforcement contact, or after a conviction with a BAC of 0.15 or more, or with injury or property damage. Under the law effective August 28, 2026 (HB 1740), the 60-day restricted driving privilege after a first administrative suspension must also show an interlock requirement, and no restricted privilege is issued after a 0.15 conviction until an interlock is installed. An interlock is also required for a restricted privilege after a refusal.
- [ ] File SR-22 insurance and keep it 2 years.
- [ ] Ask about a Restricted driving privilege (RDP); limited driving privilege (hardship license): Apply through the Missouri Department of Revenue. For the 60-day RDP, serve the 30-day suspension and file an SR-22 if you are 21 or older (plus interlock proof if you have a prior). For the immediate RDP, file proof of interlock installation.

Your full Missouri DWI guide

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

https://dui911.org/missouri

Official source for your license deadline: https://dor.mo.gov/driver-license/revocation-reinstatement/dwi.html

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