TEXAS · DWI CHECKLIST

Texas 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 Administrative License Revocation (ALR)

15 days from receiving the notice of suspension. If the officer served the DIC-25 at the arrest (refusal, or a failed breath test at the scene), that is usually the arrest date. If the notice is mailed by DPS after a lab result (for example a blood test), it is presumed received on the 5th day after mailing, so DPS tells you to request within 20 days of the mailing date. If no hearing is requested, the suspension starts on the 40th day after the notice is received.

Who: Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS); hearings held by the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH)

KEY FACTS

SUSPENSION, 1ST FAILED TEST

90 days

SUSPENSION, 1ST REFUSAL

180 days

1ST OFFENSE CHARGE

Class B misdemeanor (Class A if BAC 0.15 or higher)

1ST OFFENSE FINE

Up to $2,000

1ST OFFENSE JAIL

72 hours to 180 days (6-day minimum with an open container)

INSURANCE FILING

SR-22 for 2 years

PRIOR OFFENSES

No time limit. All prior offenses count.

IGNITION INTERLOCK

Required as a condition of community supervision for a second or later DWI, and for a first DWI with a BAC of 0.15 or higher. Courts can also order it as a bond condition.

1 First 24 Hours

- [ ] **REQUEST YOUR ALR HEARING — YOU HAVE 15 DAYS FROM BEING SERVED THE NOTICE OF SUSPENSION, USUALLY THE ARREST DATE, OR 20 DAYS FROM THE MAILING DATE IF DPS MAILS IT AFTER A LAB RESULT (Texas DPS)**

- [ ] Find your Notice of Suspension (DIC-25) — it is your temporary permit and starts the 15-day clock (if the notice is mailed after a blood result, the clock is 20 days from the mailing date)
- [ ] Write down everything you remember about the arrest
- [ ] Check your bond conditions — a magistrate can order an interlock or alcohol monitor
- [ ] Do NOT post about your arrest on social media

2 First Week

- [ ] Consult with a DWI attorney (most offer free consultations)
- [ ] Know your charge: a 1st DWI is a Class B misdemeanor (Class A at 0.15+ BAC)
- [ ] Gather all arrest documents and court paperwork
- [ ] Research SR-22 insurance requirements (kept for 2 years)
- [ ] Check if you qualify for an Occupational Driver License (ODL)

3 First Month

- [ ] Attend the ALR hearing (or make sure your attorney does)
- [ ] If no hearing was requested, the suspension starts on day 40 after the notice — plan transportation
- [ ] Apply for an Occupational Driver License if needed
- [ ] File SR-22 insurance if required

4 Court & Beyond

- [ ] Attend all court dates — missing one creates a warrant
- [ ] Complete the DWI education program if ordered
- [ ] Install an ignition interlock if ordered (required for a 2nd DWI and for a 1st at 0.15+ BAC)
- [ ] Complete any community service or probation requirements

Your full Texas DWI guide

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

https://dui911.org/texas

Official source for your license deadline: https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/driver-license/administrative-license-revocation-alr-program

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