VERMONT · DUI CHECKLIST

Vermont 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

7 days to act on your Civil suspension (summary hearing in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court)

The notice tells you to mail or deliver your request within 7 days after the date of the notice, and § 1205(f) says within 7 days of receiving it. Mail or deliver the hearing request form that came with the notice to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The preliminary hearing is held within 21 days of the offense. If you don't request a hearing, a first suspension takes effect on the 11th day after you receive the notice (a mailed notice is deemed received 3 days after mailing). A second or later suspension within 20 years also takes effect on the 11th day.

Who: Vermont DMV (Agency of Transportation); hearing held by the Criminal Division of the Superior Court

KEY FACTS

SUSPENSION, 1ST FAILED TEST

90 days

SUSPENSION, 1ST REFUSAL

6 months

1ST OFFENSE CHARGE

Misdemeanor (maximum sentence of 2 years or less)

1ST OFFENSE FINE

Up to $750

1ST OFFENSE JAIL

Up to 2 years

INSURANCE FILING

SR-22

PRIOR OFFENSES

Priors within 20 years count

IGNITION INTERLOCK

An ignition interlock RDL lets you drive during a suspension in an interlock-equipped vehicle (not a commercial vehicle). It is optional for a first offense and required before reinstatement for a second or later offense. Refusal cases must wait 30 days (first), 90 days (second) or 1 year (third or later) before applying, and cases involving death or serious bodily injury must wait 1 year.

1 First 24 Hours

- [ ] **Civil suspension (summary hearing in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court): act within 7 days. The notice tells you to mail or deliver your request within 7 days after the date of the notice, and § 1205(f) says within 7 days of receiving it. Mail or deliver the hearing request form that came with the notice to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The preliminary hearing is held within 21 days of the offense. If you don't request a hearing, a first suspension takes effect on the 11th day after you receive the notice (a mailed notice is deemed received 3 days after mailing). A second or later suspension within 20 years also takes effect on the 11th day.**
- [ ] Read your Notice of Intention to Suspend — It explains your rights and includes the form to request a hearing. Note the date on it. Your deadline runs from that date.
- [ ] Mail or deliver the hearing request within 7 days — Send it to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. The court then schedules a preliminary hearing within 21 days of the arrest.
- [ ] Mark the 11th day — Without a hearing request, a first suspension starts on the 11th day after you got the notice.
- [ ] Ask about an interlock RDL — An RDL is optional for a first offense. Without a test refusal you can apply as soon as you have the interlock installed and proof of insurance. After a refusal, a first offender waits 30 days. Cases with death or serious injury wait 1 year.
- [ ] Talk to a lawyer before the hearing — The civil suspension hearing happens fast and is separate from the criminal case. A lawyer can tell you what to raise.

2 Court

- [ ] Citation and notice of suspension — The officer cites you to appear in the Criminal Division of the Superior Court and serves the civil suspension notice. You have 7 days after the notice date to ask for the civil suspension hearing.
- [ ] Arraignment — At your first appearance the judge reads the DUI charge, addresses conditions of release and a lawyer, and you enter a plea.
- [ ] Possible referral to Court Diversion — DUI is not presumptively eligible for Court Diversion, but the prosecutor can refer a first DUI before or after arraignment. If you finish the diversion contract, the charge is dismissed; if not, prosecution resumes.
- [ ] Civil suspension hearing and pretrial — The civil suspension hearing runs on its own track in the same court. Meanwhile the criminal case moves through discovery, motions, and plea talks.
- [ ] Plea or trial, then sentencing — A conviction brings the criminal penalties and a license suspension. Reinstatement requires completing the Impaired Driver Rehabilitation Program.

3 Getting Your License Back

- [ ] Impaired Driver Rehabilitation Program (IDRP), formerly Project CRASH: After a DUI suspension, your license is reinstated only after you complete the IDRP alcohol and driving education program and an assessment by a state-designated counselor, at your own expense. The assessment can add a required treatment program. Enrollment is also required to get an RDL.
- [ ] Ignition interlock: An ignition interlock RDL lets you drive during a suspension in an interlock-equipped vehicle (not a commercial vehicle). It is optional for a first offense and required before reinstatement for a second or later offense. Refusal cases must wait 30 days (first), 90 days (second) or 1 year (third or later) before applying, and cases involving death or serious bodily injury must wait 1 year.
- [ ] File SR-22 insurance.
- [ ] Ask about a Ignition interlock restricted driver's license (RDL): Apply to the Vermont DMV with the $125 RDL application fee, proof the interlock is installed in every vehicle you'll drive, proof of financial responsibility (SR-22), and proof of enrollment in the alcohol and driving education program.

Your full Vermont DUI guide

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

https://dui911.org/vermont

Official source for your license deadline: https://dmv.vermont.gov/licenses/suspensions

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