WASHINGTON · DUI CHECKLIST

Washington 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 DOL administrative DUI hearing (implied consent suspension)

7 days from the date of arrest, or from the date the notice was given if it came later. The request must be postmarked or submitted online within that window, with the $375 fee (a fee waiver is available if you can't afford it). Missing it waives the hearing; the suspension starts 30 days after the arrest.

Who: Washington State Department of Licensing (DOL)

KEY FACTS

SUSPENSION, 1ST FAILED TEST

90 days (no prior incidents)

SUSPENSION, 1ST REFUSAL

1 year revocation (2 years if you have a prior incident)

1ST OFFENSE CHARGE

Gross misdemeanor

1ST OFFENSE FINE

$350 to $5,000 ($500 minimum if BAC 0.15+ or refusal), plus mandatory court assessments

1ST OFFENSE JAIL

24 consecutive hours to 364 days (48 hours if BAC 0.15+ or refusal)

INSURANCE FILING

SR-22 for 3 years

PRIOR OFFENSES

Priors within 7 years count

IGNITION INTERLOCK

Required after a DUI or Physical Control conviction or deferred prosecution. An ignition interlock driver license lets you drive during a DOL suspension if you install a device.

1 First 24 Hours

- [ ] **DOL administrative DUI hearing (implied consent suspension): act within 7 days. 7 days from the date of arrest, or from the date the notice was given if it came later. The request must be postmarked or submitted online within that window, with the $375 fee (a fee waiver is available if you can't afford it). Missing it waives the hearing; the suspension starts 30 days after the arrest.**

- [ ] Find your DOL notice and check the date — The officer gives you a notice that your license will be suspended. The 7-day hearing clock runs from your arrest date or the date of that notice.
- [ ] Request the DOL hearing within 7 days — Request it online through License eXpress or with the Request for DUI Hearing form. Include the $375 fee or a fee waiver request. A late request waives the hearing.
- [ ] Know when you stop driving — Without a hearing, your suspension starts 30 days after the arrest. Ask about an ignition interlock license if you need to keep driving.
- [ ] Write down what happened — Where you were stopped, what you drank and when, the tests you took or refused, and what the officer said. Details fade fast.
- [ ] Talk to a DUI lawyer before your arraignment — Ask about deferred prosecution, which is usually a one-time option in Washington (a second is allowed only in limited cases since 2026) and still counts as a prior later.

2 Court

- [ ] Arrest and charging — A first DUI is a gross misdemeanor charged in district court (county) or municipal court (city). The DOL license case runs separately.
- [ ] Arraignment in person — You must appear in person at a DUI arraignment. The appearance is mandatory and can't be waived. The court may explain the deferred prosecution program here.
- [ ] Pretrial hearings and discovery — After a not guilty plea, the case moves through pretrial hearings, discovery, and plea talks.
- [ ] Deferred prosecution petition (if eligible) — If your conduct came from a substance use disorder or mental health problem, you can petition for deferred prosecution at least 7 days before trial. It requires treatment. It used to be once in a lifetime; since January 1, 2026 (ESHB 1493) a second deferred prosecution is allowed only in limited cases, such as when you have no other prior offense.
- [ ] Plea or trial, then sentencing — A conviction is sentenced from the DUI sentencing grid: mandatory jail or alternatives, fines, an alcohol and drug assessment, and the treatment or school it recommends.

3 Getting Your License Back

- [ ] Alcohol/drug assessment, followed by alcohol and drug information school (ADIS) or substance use disorder treatment: A DUI conviction requires a diagnostic evaluation by a licensed substance use disorder program. Based on it, the court orders either an alcohol and drug information school course or more intensive treatment. Deferred prosecution requires treatment.
- [ ] Ignition interlock: Required after a DUI or Physical Control conviction or deferred prosecution. An ignition interlock driver license lets you drive during a DOL suspension if you install a device.
- [ ] File SR-22 insurance and keep it 3 years.
- [ ] Ask about a Ignition interlock driver license (IIL): Install an interlock, get SR-22 insurance, then apply to the Department of Licensing for an ignition interlock driver license and pay the application fee.

Your full Washington DUI guide

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

https://dui911.org/washington

Official source for your license deadline:
https://dol.wa.gov/driver-licenses-and-permits/suspended-driver-license/types-driver-license-suspensions/dui-driving-under-influence

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