

DUI Checklist

This checklist will help you through the various initial steps in dealing with your First DUI and consulting a DUI lawyer.

Overview

A first DUI, while very frightening, is also manageable. This checklist is intended to ensure that important aspects of your case are reviewed and analyzed in chronological order.

Write Down Everything that Happened

Your memory of the events of your DUI will never be clearer than they are right now. The more time that passes, the more likely it is that you will forget small, but potentially important details.

Developing the most effective defense begins with a thorough investigation of the facts. There is always more than one side to any story. Your detailed recounting of the event – as soon afterward as possible – can be used to 1) refresh your recollection later on and 2) help your DUI lawyer assess the strengths and/or weaknesses of the prosecution's case.

Your written recounting of the event should include:

The reason for the stop

- Describe, in detail, what the officer said was the reason for stopping/contacting you.
- What did the officer say to you?
- What questions did the officer ask you?
- What did you say to the officer?
- What answers did you give?
- Where were you coming from?
- Where were you going?
- What route had you taken to get to the place where police contacted you?
- Who was in the vehicle with you?
- What did you have to drink within 12 hours of the police contact?
- What did have to eat within 12 hours of the police contact?

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- Where did you drink?
- Who paid for the drinks and how?
- What time was your first drink?
- What time was your last drink?
- How many drinks did you have?
- What type of liquor/size/mixers did you have?
- Did you ingest any other substances, such as marijuana or other controlled drugs?
 - If so, what/when/how/how much?
- What time were you contacted by police?
- What time were you tested (breath or blood)?
- Did you do the field sobriety tests?
- What do you remember about the breath/blood test?
- What were the conditions (weather) at the time of the police contact?
- What else do you remember about the event?

Don't leave anything out. Any little – seemingly insignificant – piece of information could be valuable. Let your DUI lawyer determine what is useful in your defense.

With this important information, your DUI lawyer can begin to develop an understanding of the incident to compare and contrast with whatever law enforcement has written in their reports. This information is for your DUI lawyer and you only. Do not share it with anyone.

If you have additional questions, always feel free to contact our office for a free consultation at (888) 293-0396.