



**IMPAIRED DRIVING LAWS IN TEXAS
INFORMATION FOR TEXAS MEDIA**

HERE'S THE LAW: 21 OR OLDER

In Texas the legal limit for intoxication is .08 BAC (blood or breath alcohol concentration). However, drivers can be stopped and cited when impaired regardless of BAC. Drivers and passengers can be fined up to \$500 for having an open alcohol container in a vehicle.

First Offense	Second Offense*	Third Offense*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to a \$2,000 fine • Three to 180 days in jail • Loss of driver's license up to a year • \$1,000 or \$2,000 annual fee for three years to retain driver's license 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to a \$4,000 fine • One month to a year in jail • Loss of driver's license up to two years • \$1,000, \$1,500, or \$2,000 annual fee for three years to retain driver's license 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to a \$10,000 fine • Two to ten years in prison • Loss of driver's license up to two years • \$1,000, \$1,500, or \$2,000 annual fee for three years to retain driver's license

*After two or more DWI convictions in five years, motorists must install a special ignition switch that prevents their vehicle from being operated if they've been drinking.

DWI WITH A CHILD PASSENGER

Motorists can be charged with child endangerment for driving while intoxicated if they're carrying passengers younger than 15 years old.

DWI with a child passenger is a felony and punishable with:

- Up to a \$10,000 fine
- Up to two years in a state jail
- Loss of driver's license for 180 days

HERE'S THE LAW: UNDER 21

It is illegal for minors (under 21) to purchase, attempt to purchase, possess or consume alcohol. It's also against the law for minors to misrepresent their age to obtain alcohol.

Minors in Possession

Here's what happens the first time minors are found in possession of alcohol. Any amount of beer, wine or liquor will trigger the penalties.

- Up to a \$500 fine
- 30- to 180-day driver's license suspension
- 8 to 40 hours of community service
- Mandatory alcohol awareness classes

A second or third offense can lead to suspension of the minor's driver's license for 60 to 180 days. Those 17 or older can be fined as much as \$2,000 or go to jail for up to 180 days for a third offense or both, plus automatic driver's license suspension.

Minors Drinking and Driving

It is illegal for minors to drive with any detectable amount of alcohol in their system.

Here's what happens the first time a minor is stopped for drinking and driving:

- Up to a \$500 fine
- 60-day driver's license suspension
- 20 to 40 hours of community service

- Mandatory alcohol awareness classes

Here's what happens to minors 17 and over who are stopped for drinking and driving with a blood or breath alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or greater:

- Up to a \$2,000 fine
- Three to 180 days in jail
- Driver's license suspension for 90 days to a year