

# **THE ROAD BACK TO DRIVING**

**Steps to License  
Reinstatement Using  
Ignition Interlock**



# ARRESTED FOR DWI? START DRIVING USING IGNITION INTERLOCK

All Minnesota DWI offenders have the option to regain driving privileges by having ignition interlock installed in their vehicle.

## What is an ignition interlock?

An ignition interlock is a device installed under the vehicle dashboard and connected to the starter. For a person to start a vehicle they must blow into the device and measure an alcohol content under 0.02. If the alcohol content is at 0.02 or above, the car will not start and the information will be recorded and later transmitted to the monitoring authority.

Drivers canceled and denied as dangerous (“inimical”) to public safety are required to have an ignition interlock installed to regain driving privileges.

Review the following license reinstatement information to learn how to regain driving privileges with ignition interlock.

Learn more about ignition interlocks at [dvs.dps.mn.gov](https://dvs.dps.mn.gov).

## Benefits of interlock:

- Continue driving with no limitations.
- Avoid future DWIs.
- Save money by avoiding consequences of driving illegally.
- Limited costs (\$3–\$4 daily).



# FIRST- AND SECOND-TIME DWI OFFENDERS

## Required steps to get your driver's license back:

1. Pass the DWI knowledge test, pay a \$680 reinstatement fee and apply for a new driver's license at a driver's license exam station.
2. Sign the special review form (required if this is a second offense).
3. Apply for special registration license plates (required for a first offense with a 0.16 or higher alcohol-concentration level, or for second or more offense).

## You will not be able to drive for the following time periods:

1st offense (under 0.16* alcohol-concentration)	90 days; 180 days if under age 21
1st offense test refused	1 year
1st offense (0.16 alcohol-concentration or above)	1 year
2nd offense within 10 years or 3rd alcohol offense on record (under 0.16 alcohol-concentration)	1 year
2nd offense within 10 years or 3rd on record (0.16 or over or test refusal)	2 years

## Drive immediately following a DWI arrest with ignition interlock:

- Complete the three required steps listed above.
- Obtain an insurance certificate from your insurance company for the vehicle which will be equipped with the ignition interlock device. (See back cover for information on ignition interlocks.)
- Sign an ignition interlock participation agreement available on [dvs.dps.mn.gov](https://dvs.dps.mn.gov).
- Submit interlock participant agreement, test fees, insurance certificate and other required documents to Driver and Vehicle Services.
- Install an ignition interlock device.
- Apply for special registration license plates if license plates were impounded.

\* 1st time DWI offenders with an alcohol-concentration level below 0.16, or offenders who refused to submit to testing may be eligible for a limited license without ignition interlock after 15 days of no driving. A limited license is a paper license that is issued while driving privileges are revoked. Limited licenses allow driving to work, school and abstinence-based support programs.

# THIRD-TIME OR MORE OFFENDERS

If you have been arrested for a third DWI offense within a 10-year period, or have four or more alcohol offenses on record, you will be canceled as inimical to public safety\*\*\* and be required to install ignition interlock.

## Required steps to get your driver's license back:

- Enroll in a treatment program as recommended by a chemical use evaluation. Must have treatment provider or assessor submit enrollment documents directly to Driver and Vehicle Services.
- Pass the DWI knowledge test; pay a \$680 reinstatement fee; apply for a new driver's license and pay the application fee.
- Sign an ignition interlock participation agreement available on [dvs.dps.mn.gov](https://dvs.dps.mn.gov).
- Obtain an insurance certificate from your insurance company for the vehicle which will be equipped with the ignition interlock device.
- Sign a last use statement form available on [dvs.dps.mn.gov](https://dvs.dps.mn.gov).
- Complete a limited license application available on [dvs.dps.mn.gov](https://dvs.dps.mn.gov) and submit to Driver and Vehicle Services.
- Install an ignition interlock device.
- Apply for special registration license plates after obtaining the ignition interlock limited license.

## Ignition interlock requirements

Offense	Must drive a vehicle with an ignition device and have no detection of alcohol or drug use for:
3rd offense within 10 years or 4th on record	3 years 1 year limited license* 2 years ignition interlock restricted license**
4th offense within 10 years	4 years 1 year limited license* 3 years ignition interlock restricted license**
5th or subsequent offense	6 years 1 year limited license* 5 years ignition interlock restricted license**

\* Limited license is a paper license that is issued while driving privileges are revoked. Limited licenses allow driving to work, school and abstinence-based support programs.

\*\* A restricted license allows a person to only drive a vehicle equipped with ignition interlock with the exception of some employer-owned vehicles.

\*\*\* A license is canceled when the Commissioner of Public Safety determines a driver is dangerous ("inimical") to public safety; abstinence from alcohol and illegal use of controlled substances is required (and must be proven) for a certain amount of time, which varies depending on the offense.



Minnesota Department of Public Safety  
Office of Traffic Safety  
444 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

[dps.mn.gov](https://dps.mn.gov)