

USE IT & LOSE IT

Driving is perhaps the ultimate statement of independence for a teenager. But having a driver's license is a privilege that comes with responsibility.

Under Illinois' "Use It & Lose It" zero tolerance law, drivers under age 21 who are caught with any trace of alcohol in their systems will lose their driving privileges. They also can be charged with DUI if they have any trace of other drugs in their systems or have a blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 percent or greater, or in excess of .05 with additional evidence proving impairment.

Automobile accidents are the No. 1 cause of death among young people and nearly half are alcohol-related. By drinking and driving, you stand to lose more than just your driver's license — you could lose your life.

Teenagers face many tough decisions. I urge you to think twice before drinking and getting behind the wheel. It's not only against the law, it could kill you, your friends and innocent people who share the road with you. You have much to look forward to in life, so be safe, stay strong and drive sober.

Jesse White

Jesse White
Illinois Secretary of State



Chemical Testing

A police officer will test for alcohol if, after issuing a citation for any traffic offense, he/she has probable cause to believe the driver has consumed alcohol. Based on the driver's physical condition or the police officer's firsthand knowledge, a test may be requested.

"Use It & Lose It" Penalties*

Test Failure — first violation

- Loss of driving privileges for 3 months

Test Failure — second violation

- Loss of driving privileges for 1 year

Test Refusal — first violation

- Loss of driving privileges for 6 months

Test Refusal — second violation

- Loss of driving privileges for 2 years

* Full driving privileges may not be restored until all applicable reinstatement fees are paid to the Office of the Secretary of State.

Under 21 DUI Penalties

First Offense

- Loss of driving privileges for a minimum of 2 years.
- DUI conviction is permanently on driving record.

Second Offense

- Loss of driving privileges for a minimum of 5 years.
- DUI conviction is permanently on driving record.

Other Consequences

Aside from the loss of driving privileges, possible fines and jail time, other consequences caused by drinking and driving may include suspension or revocation of vehicle plates, high insurance costs, mandatory alcohol evaluation and treatment, court and attorney fees and negative long-term effects on driving record and job opportunities.

Driving While Suspended

For drivers over age 16, a Restricted Driving Permit may be issued after a portion of the suspension period has passed to relieve undue hardship. It may allow driving for specific employment, educational or medical purposes.

Exceptions

The only people not subject to the "Use It & Lose It" law are those who consumed alcohol in a religious service or ceremony or those who ingested a prescribed or recommended dosage of medicine that contains alcohol. This evidence can be presented at an administrative hearing and does not require a court appearance.

Illegal Transportation

It is illegal to transport alcoholic beverages in the passenger area of a vehicle. No matter who the alcohol belongs to, everyone in the vehicle can be charged with illegal transportation. If you are driving the vehicle, your driving privileges will be suspended for 12 months for the first offense. A second offense will result in the revocation of your driving privileges and vehicle registration.

Underage Possession/Consumption

Persons under age 21 convicted of or receiving court supervision for illegally purchasing, accepting, possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages will have their driving privileges suspended or revoked.

Parental Responsibility

Parents should know that it is a Class 4 felony, with possible imprisonment of 1-3 years and a fine of up to \$25,000, to knowingly allow individuals under age 21 to drink in their home, if great bodily harm or death is a result of this action.

Nighttime Driving Restrictions

State law establishes nighttime driving restrictions for persons under age 18: Sun.-Thurs., 10 p.m.-6 a.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 p.m.-6 a.m. Your driver's license may be invalid when restrictions are in effect.

For more information or to schedule an educational presentation on DUI and traffic safety laws, please contact:

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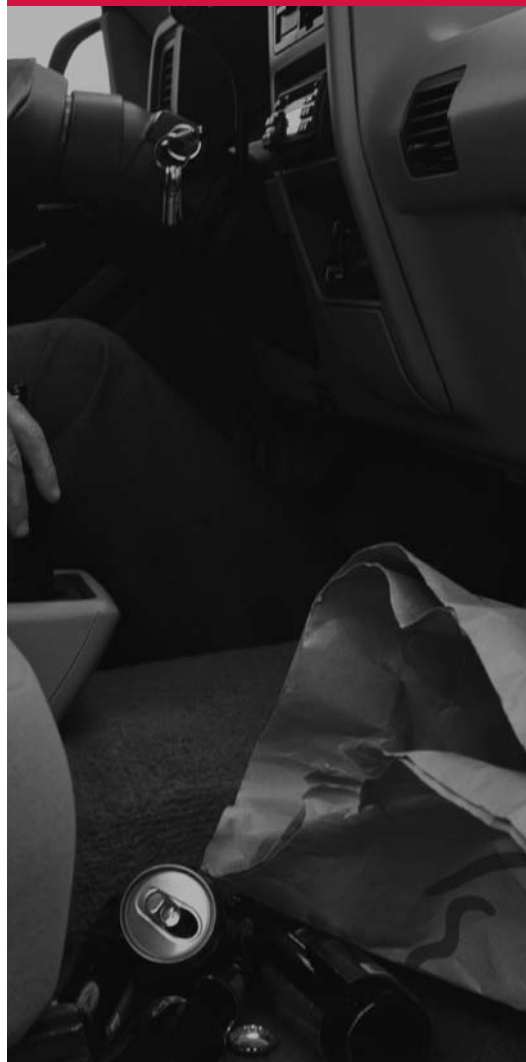


This brochure condenses and paraphrases the language of the Illinois Compiled Statutes and does not reflect all legal aspects of DUI for drivers under 21.

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Secretary of State