

War Against Drunk Driving

By Scott Mergenthaler

For several years, Ohio has been engaged in an all out war against drunk drivers. Various laws have been enacted aimed at decreasing the incidence of drunk driving. Included among the laws are the following:

- Lowering of prohibited alcohol levels;
- Immobilization and/or forfeiture of vehicles of repeat offenders;
- Automatic driver's license suspensions;
- Increased penalties for high alcohol levels;
- Requirement of special license plates; and
- Increased penalties for refusals to test.

More changes, with stiffer penalties, are being considered by Ohio's lawmakers. The war on drunk driving is also characterized by ever increasing efforts of law enforcement agencies to detect and apprehend suspected drunk drivers.

The costs of being accused of driving while intoxicated are, in turn, increasing as convictions may seriously effect one's job, insurance rates, and individual freedoms. When faced with drunk driving charge, it is highly recommended that one consult with an attorney to determine what rights may be available and the consequences of such a conviction. An experienced attorney can determine what, if any, defenses may be available, assist in the process for obtaining limited driving privileges and reinstatement of driving privileges, and help with a myriad of other issues that will impact one's future.

For more information about the defense of drunk driving charges, please contact Scott R. Mergenthaler at (614) 228-6135.

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