

## **What is the new Ignition Interlock law?**

The new law—the first of its kind in the nation and possibly world wide—goes into effect on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. It mandates an ignition interlock license and the installation of the device for ANYONE convicted of DWI.

## **How does the Ignition Interlock device work?**

- Once installed in the vehicle driven by the offender, the offender must blow into the ignition interlock device every time he/she starts the vehicle.
- If the offender has had any alcohol, the device will record the driver's blood alcohol content.
- The ignition interlock prevents the vehicle from starting if it registers a BAC greater than .025, thus preventing a driver from driving intoxicated.

## **How does an offender go about getting one of these devices?**

Upon conviction, the judge directs you to a list of providers available at the court office. However, an offender must obtain an Ignition Interlock License first. Then visit a provider or vendor to have the device installed.

## **How does an offender get a license?**

The offender fills out an application that is processed through the Motor Vehicle Division.

The Ignition Interlock license allows you to drive legally, although the status of your license is still revoked.

## **What if it's your first offense?**

It doesn't matter. The law applies to anyone convicted of DWI.

The new law eliminates the "limited license" which allowed drivers revoked for the **first time only** to drive legally after 30 days without an interlock.

## **What if you don't get an ignition interlock installed?**

- The only way to drive legally is to get an ignition interlock license, proof of insurance, and to get a device installed.
- If not, you're in violation and the penalty for driving without an interlock is the same as driving while revoked.

## **What is the penalty for a revoked license?**

- It depends on whether it's your first, second, third, fourth or 15<sup>th</sup> offense—aggravated or criminal. There jail time and exuberant fines.

## **You said New Mexico is the first state in the nation; why New Mexico.**

- Ignition Interlocks have proved to be the most effective way to prevent drunk driving.
- DWI offenders have 75% fewer DWI arrests than those without interlocks.
- Also, New Mexico is the first state to allow convicted DWI offenders to apply and obtain an ignition interlock.

## **Why do you think it works for New Mexico?**

- Interlocks serve as a probation officer in the front seat; it's on duty 24 hours per day.
- The device tests a driver's blood alcohol content an average of 7 times per day.
- It generates a report of all violations that goes to the court.
- And, it costs only \$2.30 per day (less than one drink per day).

## **How many interlocks would you say have been installed so far?**

- Approximately 6,000 interlocks have been installed to date.
- And they're being installed at a rate of 3,000 per year.
- New Mexico has more interlocks installed per capita than any other state.

## **What if a driver claims he or she is not driving or that they have no car?**

The judge could mandate house arrest for offenders in this situation.

## **What if you don't know how to use the device?**

Offenders are trained by the Ignition interlock providers when they install the device.

## **Where are these ignition interlock providers or vendors located?**

- We have more than 50 vendors statewide.
- They're located in just about every community, some have three or four:
- Albuquerque has 6, Santa Fe-4, Gallup-4, Las Cruces-3, Taos-3 and we have new vendors all the time.

## **Are the vendors listed in the phone book or what is the best way to obtain a list of providers?**

You may contact the New Mexico Department of Transportation—Traffic Safety Bureau at 1-800-541-7952 or 505-827-0427 for the list of providers, their location, and telephone numbers.