

AUGUST 15, 2010

DON'T BLOW IT!



Beginning August 15, 2010, anyone in New York State convicted of drunken driving (even first-time offenders) will be required to install at their own expense an ignition interlock device on any vehicle they operate.



STOP- DWI PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
(914) 995-4115

LEANDRA'S LAW

Tough New DWI Penalties for New York

In November 2009, New York implemented a new impaired driving law with 2 major components: toughen the penalties for driving impaired with children (effective 12/18/2009) and require interlock devices for those sentenced on or after 8/15/2010.

Important provisions of this new law include:

- First time offenders driving while intoxicated (.08 Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) or more) or impaired by drugs while a child of younger than 16 years old is in the vehicle may be charged with a class E felony punishable by up to 4 years in State prison.
- Drivers who drive while intoxicated or impaired by drugs and cause serious physical injury or death to a child in the vehicle may be charged with the Class C or B felony, punishable by up to 15-25 years in State prison.
- Courts must sentence all drivers convicted of a misdemeanor or felony DWI to install and maintain an ignition interlock, for at least 6 months, on any vehicle owned and operated by such driver.
- Individuals charged with driving with a blood alcohol level of .08 or greater and with a child under the age of 16 in the vehicle will automatically have their license suspended pending prosecution.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does an interlock device work?

Before a vehicle's motor can be started, the driver must exhale into an ignition interlock device installed in the vehicle. If the driver's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is .025 percent or higher the engine will not start.

What do ignition interlock devices cost and who will pay for it?

The ignition interlock service costs approximately \$800 - \$1,000 for a six month period and is paid for by the convicted drunk driver.

Where can I find more information and view public service announcements?

You can visit the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee website at www.SafeNY.com/impaired for further information.

Westchester
gov.com

George Latimer, County Executive
County Board of Legislators