

# LEGAL EAGLE



DAVID GRAY  
Solicitors LLP

WITH JANICE HALL

## Consequences of drink driving

All of us have made bad decisions at one time or other, but when you're facing a drink driving conviction you can bitterly regret choosing to get behind the wheel of a car.

While you can't turn back the clock, you can get advice and representation in order to minimise the consequences.

And the consequences can be severe. The offence of drink driving attracts a number of penalties, including a driving ban, fine, up to 6 months in prison and potentially long lasting endorsements on your driving licence.

Getting the right legal ad-

vice as quickly as possible can have a huge impact on the outcome of your case. The offence of drink driving is one of the few areas of English Law where you are required to provide evidence against yourself.

Because of this, there are strict procedures that the police must follow. A solicitor can advise you on whether these procedures were followed correctly, and if they weren't, this can be used as part of your defence.

Many drivers forget that it's not just the court case that you need to be concerned about.

A drink driving conviction can also have an impact on your employment, car insurance, the cost of alterna-



tive transport while you're banned from driving and other consequences of having a criminal record. In fact, The

Institute of Advanced Motorists calculate that a drink drive conviction could cost between £20,000 – £50,000.

Faced with this stark reality it makes sense to get the very best legal advice possible to minimise the cost consequences.

So what are the legal alcohol limits in England, Wales and Northern Ireland?

- 35 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath.

- 80 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood.

- 107 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of urine.

Any measurement above these figures means that you can be prosecuted for drink driving. The greater the reading, the greater the penalty.

Courts will also consider other aggravating features, such as whether there was

an accident or passengers in the car.

The circumstances surrounding the drink driving offence can have a big impact on the penalty imposed by the court. We work with clients to develop strong arguments to put in mitigation, particularly when it comes to explaining to the court the extent of the impact that a driving ban will have on your work and family.

● **Janice Hall is a solicitor in David Gray Solicitors LLP team of specialist motoring or driving solicitors. Call 0191 232 9547 or visit the website for an appointment with Janice or any member of the team. For emergency out of hours advice call 07764 929 487.**

## HOUSING PROBLEMS?

WE CAN HELP YOU.

David Gray Solicitors has a specialist Housing Team which helps tenants who are facing:

- Possession proceedings
- Warrants of eviction
- Rent arrears
- Housing benefit difficulties
- Illegal eviction
- Anti-social behaviour injunctions
- Notices to quit
- Disrepair

...And much more

Our Housing team are recommended as a 'leading firm for social housing tenants' in this year's Legal 500 Guide to the top law firms in the country.

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For advice call our Housing Team on **0191 243 8160**. Appointments available at our South Shields & Newcastle offices.

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