

# Traffic Tickets

A traffic violation can be minor, such as failure to stop for a stop sign or as serious as Driving While Impaired. Traffic violations are considered criminal offenses under North Carolina law, and you need to consult an attorney before your court date to understand your rights and potential punishments that the court could impose.

If you were recently given a ticket for a traffic violation such as speeding, it's important that you consult with an attorney. There are various penalties for traffic offenses, ranging from monetary fines to jail time. Most traffic offenses may not seem like a big deal, but if you plead guilty or are found guilty of committing a traffic offense, there may be consequences that you are unaware of, particularly if you have committed multiple violations over certain periods of time. Additionally, certain violations may result in the loss of your driver's license and/or a big increase in your auto insurance premiums.

The McGuire Law Firm represents individuals facing traffic violations, and we encourage you to call us and set up a consultation to discuss your situation. Once we get involved, we will guide you in making decisions about the best way to handle your case to try to avoid serious legal consequences that you may not be aware that you face. Some traffic tickets may seem like "no big deal," but depending on the charge and your individual driving record and circumstances, you could face significant penalties and consequences.

Get the advice of a defense attorney before your court date in order to protect yourself. We are only a phone call away.

# Criminal Defense

If you have been charged with a crime, the government (the District Attorney's office) may prosecute you. You should consult with an experienced criminal defense attorney before you go into court. Punishments for convictions may include relatively minor things, such as fines, and/or very serious things, such as prison time.

In general, misdemeanor criminal charges can result in prison time of one year or less, or possibly no prison time at all. Examples of misdemeanors include Driving While License Revoked, Probation violations, certain traffic violations, possession of small amounts of drugs, certain types of assaults or certain types of theft.

Felonies are more serious crimes, and the punishment can include prison sentences of one year or longer. Some examples of felonies are theft over a certain amount, arson, robbery, kidnapping, possession of large amounts of drugs, and murder.

The punishment for convictions varies widely and is based in part on what you are charged with and your prior criminal history. It is vital that you understand the potential punishments you face before you go to court.

You need to know your rights, and you need to know the possible consequences in the event that you are found guilty of the crime you are charged with. Some mistakes cannot be undone, and consulting an attorney before your court date can help you avoid a critical mistake that is permanent.

We handle misdemeanors, felonies, and traffic tickets. In some cases, if you cannot afford an attorney, you may qualify for court-appointed counsel. Please call us to discuss your case and to be advised about your options.

# DWI Lawyer

A DWI in North Carolina, while technically a traffic offense, has more serious consequences, potentially very serious. Many factors go into determining the punishment for a DWI. These factors are categorized into 5 Levels, 5 being the least serious and Aggravated 1 being the most serious. Further, what your particular circumstances are, i.e. the circumstances of your arrest, your previous driving record, and how much over the legal limit your blood alcohol was will determine into what level your offense falls. Another factor that plays a role in your charge is what type of license you possess. If you have a commercial license, you have stricter regulations with regard to what your BAC percentage can be before triggering a DWI. For a regular license the BAC for a DWI is .08% and for a commercial drivers with a CDL the amount is .04%. If you've had a previous DWI, the BOC content limit is .04% regardless of license type.

Consequences for a DWI in North Carolina will depend on your driving record and the circumstances of your DWI. Punishments can include a fine, jail time, and revocation, or suspension of your driver's license for a period of time. If you have a previous DWI within 7 years on your driving record, you may also have other punishments, such as having to have an interlock installed in your vehicle.

All DWI violators will appear in front of judge and if you have been charged with a DWI, you should have an attorney as soon as possible to give them time to learn about your case and prepare for court. It is important to appear with a defense attorney with DWI experience so that you can present a good defense to try to minimize the legal ramifications of your DWI.