

## **Top Ten Mistakes Made By People Arrested for DUI**

- 1. Not taking the matter seriously.** If you are convicted, this charge will be with you for the rest of your life. The additional insurance charges alone could cost you thousands of dollars.
- 2. Not hiring an attorney.** The law is complex and you need competent representation. You must raise the right defenses at the right time or you will lose them. Facts will disappear, memories fade and witnesses vanish.
- 3. Hiring an attorney based on the amount of the fee alone.** You need to hire an attorney and pay a fee which will allow him/her to put time and effort into your case to counter the prosecution. Attorneys must earn enough in the time they spend on your case in order to keep their doors open and make a living wage. If you go too low, your attorney will not be able to put in the time necessary to protect you. Look for a reasonable, predictable fee, not the lowest. Remember, the prosecution (the State) has almost unlimited resources when it comes to your case.
- 4. Not complying with driver's license laws.** You could lose your right to drive.
- 5. Driving after your license has been revoked.** Each state has its own rules, but the penalties are severe – high fines and you could lose your right to drive.
- 6. Not taking full advantage of your constitutional rights.** Another reason why you need to hire an attorney who can -and will- protect your constitutional rights.
- 7. Taking the District Attorney's first offer.** The first offer is not a bargain, it's the State's effort to get rid of your case with the least amount of work. By taking the first offer, you forfeit the opportunity to negotiate a dismissal, or a reduction to a non-alcohol charge.
- 8. Failing to appear in Court.** The Court will issue a bench warrant for your arrest and revoke any bond. The next time you are stopped for a traffic infraction, you will be spending some time in jail and posting a bond for your future appearances.
- 9. Talking to anyone but an attorney about your case.** Anything you say to anyone else can be used against you.
- 10. Thinking that talking to numerous attorneys will help you handle it on your own.** You need to have an attorney who knows the details of your case.