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Drunk Driving in Georgia

What you need to know in 2027

Updated January 2027 · Data: 2024, the latest available

The numbers

325
people died in alcohol-impaired crashes in Georgia in 2024

23%
of all Georgia traffic deaths

About 1 a day
in Georgia

1,403
people died on Georgia roads in 2024, from all causes

Nationwide: 11,904 deaths in 2024, **one every 44 minutes**

Source: NHTSA, Traffic Safety Facts 2024

The legal limits



0.08%
Drivers 21 and over



0.04%
Commercial drivers



0.02%
Drivers under 21

You can be charged below 0.08% if you are too impaired to drive safely. Marijuana and prescription drugs count too.

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After a DUI arrest: the timeline

The first 30 days matter most.

Day 0 — The arrest

1

You may receive a DDS 1205 notice. It can act as your temporary permit. Keep it.







Within 30 days — Protect your license

2

Request an ALS hearing with DDS ($150), **OR** choose the ignition interlock permit. You cannot do both. Miss the deadline and your license is suspended automatically.



Weeks later — Arraignment

3

Your first court date.





Months later — Motions, plea talks, or trial

4

Pre-trial procedures.



After the case — Sentence and reinstatement

5

Final resolution.

Implied consent: by driving in Georgia, you agree to state chemical testing. Refusing can mean a 1-year license suspension.

Penalties at a glance

Within a 10-year look-back period

	1st offense	2nd offense	3rd offense	4th+ offense
Level	Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	High & aggravated misdemeanor	Felony
Fine	$300–$1,000	$600–$1,000	$1,000–$5,000	Up to $5,000
Jail	10 days–12 months	90 days–12 months	120 days–12 months	1–5 years
Community service	40 hours	30 days	30 days	60 days
License	Up to 12 months	3 years	5-year revocation	Revocation

Plus DUI Risk Reduction program, clinical evaluation, and probation. Judges may suspend part of a jail sentence.

The hidden costs



Bail



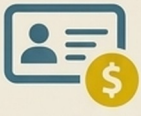
Towing & impound



Court surcharges



Risk Reduction class



Reinstatement fees



Ignition interlock



SR-22 insurance



Time off work

Hit by a drunk driver?

- [x] Call 911 and get medical care, even if you feel fine.
- [x] Get the police report number, photos, and witness names.
- [x] Don't give a recorded statement to the other driver's insurer.
- [x] Georgia's cap on punitive damages does not apply to impaired drivers.
- [x] Your uninsured motorist coverage may help.
- [x] You generally have 2 years to file an injury claim.

Plan a safe ride



Pick a designated driver



Use a rideshare or taxi



See an impaired driver? Pull over and call 911

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Facing a DUI charge, or hurt by a drunk driver?

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Sources: NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts 2024; NHTSA State Alcohol-Impaired-Driving Estimates 2024; Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety; O.C.G.A. § 40-6-391; Georgia DDS. This guide is general information, not legal advice, and does not create an attorney-client relationship. Attorney advertising.