



LEGAL FIRST AID

BY BENNETT & BENNETT, LAWYERS

DWI EDITION

(“I’VE JUST BEEN PULLED OVER FOR DWI IN TEXAS. WHAT DO I DO?”)

1. **DON’T PANIC.** REMAIN CALM AND POLITE. DO NOT FIGHT, ARGUE, OR RESIST.
2. **DON’T TAKE ANY TESTS.** THE FIELD SOBRIETY TESTS ARE RIGGED AGAINST YOU.
3. **DON’T SAY ANYTHING.** SAY NOTHING OTHER THAN “I’D LIKE TO SPEAK TO MY LAWYER FIRST.”
4. **DON’T BLOW.** THE BREATHALYZER IS INACCURATE AND UNRELIABLE. DON’T TRUST IT. ONCE YOU ARE AT THE STATION, YOU HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR DWI. YOU ARE NOT GOING TO GET YOURSELF UNARRESTED BY BLOWING.
5. **WHEN YOU GET A CHANCE, CALL A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND TO BAIL YOU OUT.** HE CAN ARREST YOU AND SEARCH YOUR CAR IF YOU REFUSE.
6. **GET SOME REST.** BEING ARRESTED FOR DWI IS A VERY STRESSFUL EXPERIENCE; IT USUALLY HAPPENS AT NIGHT, SO YOU WILL HAVE LOST SLEEP. YOU WILL NEED TO BE ON THE BALL TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT LAWYER. YOU’RE NOT GOING TO HIRE A LAWYER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, SO GET SOME SLEEP AND GO ON TO THE NEXT STEP IN THE MORNING.
7. **HIRE A LAWYER.** JUST AS FIRST AID IS NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE EXPERT MEDICAL ATTENTION, LEGAL FIRST AID IS NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE EXPERT LEGAL ASSISTANCE, BUT ONLY TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION UNTIL YOU CAN GET SUCH ASSISTANCE. THERE MAY BE THINGS THAT A COMPETENT LAWYER CAN DO IMMEDIATELY TO IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING THE CASE. IT IS BEST TO HIRE COMPETENT COUNSEL WITHIN A DAY OF YOUR ARREST; IT IS ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL TO HAVE THE HELP OF A COMPETENT LAWYER WITHIN 14 DAYS OF YOUR ARREST.

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