You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Introduction

Overview

The Department of Health Care Services Office of Criminal Justice Collaboration administers the Driving-Under-the-Influence (DUI) Program through its DUI Program Branch. The DUI Program Branch licenses and monitors all DUI programs statewide; establishes regulations, approves participant fees and fee schedules, and provides DUI information and technical assistance.

The Department currently licenses 254 first-offender, 234 multiple offender programs.

In fiscal year 2012-2013, 132,737 DUI offenders participated in California’s licensed DUI programs.

Objectives

The objectives of DUI programs are to: (1) reduce the number of repeat DUI offenses by persons who complete a state-licensed DUI program; and (2) provide participants an opportunity to address problems related to the use of alcohol and/or other drugs.

What Constitutes Drunk Driving in California?

In general, you don’t have to be drunk to be guilty of driving under the influence (DUI) in California. DUI simply means:

- Driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs (legal or illegal).
- Or Driving with a blood alcohol level 0.08% or greater or for 0.01% or greater for anyone 21 years or younger. (VC § 23140).
- Your driving is deemed impaired.

People under the age of 21, may be subject to:

- Your driver’s license is automatically suspended by DMV if you refuse to take a PAS (Breathalyzer test).

Types of Programs

Wet Reckless Program

Persons between the ages of 18 to 20 convicted of reckless driving with a measurable amount of alcohol in their blood complete a 12-hour DUI education program.

First Offender Program

Persons convicted of a first DUI offense complete a three-month, 30-hour alcohol and drug education and counseling program. However, first offenders with a blood alcohol content of 0.20 or higher complete a nine-month, 60-hour alcohol and drug education and counseling program.

18-Month Program

Second and subsequent DUI offenders complete 18-month multiple offender programs with 52 hours of group counseling, 12 hours of alcohol and drug education, 6 hours of community reentry monitoring, and biweekly individual interviews.

30-Month Program

A county may elect to provide 30-month DUI programs for third and subsequent DUI offenders. with 78 hours of group counseling, 12 hours of alcohol and drug education, 120-300 hours of community service, and close and regular individual interviews. This program is not currently offered in Santa Barbara County.