

DWI Loteria Talking Points

Broke

- How much might a first-time DWI end up costing you? (\$9,000-\$24,000)
- What will your friends think if you are always broke because all your money is going toward paying the DWI?

Call a Friend

- Sometimes there might not be a taxi or public transportation available. In this case, what should you do if you have been drinking? (Call a friend or family member to give you a ride, do not drive yourself!)

Community Service

- How many hours of community service can you expect to do after a first DWI conviction? (Between 24 and 100)

Court-Ordered Alcohol Education

- Did you know that along with fines, community service, and possible jail time, if you are convicted of DWI you can also be required to attend a drug or alcohol education class?
- How much does this class cost? (\$25-\$185)

The Crash

- How many of you use a car owned by a family member? What do you think your parents would say if you totaled their car because you were driving impaired?

The Crime

- What does DWI stand for? (Driving While Intoxicated)
- What does DUI stand for? (Driving Under the Influence)
- What types of substances can render someone “intoxicated”? (Alcohol, legal and illegal drugs)

The Designated Driver

- What are the benefits of having a designated driver? (You will not get a DWI, you will be safe, etc.)
- Who might you ask to be your designated driver? (A friend, spouse, or other relative)
- When should you ask somebody to be your designated driver? (Before you start drinking)

Disappointed Loved Ones

- How do you think your family would feel if you got a DWI, or were injured or killed in a DWI crash?

Drink Alternatives

- What are some alternatives to drinking alcohol if you are the designated driver or know that you have to drive later? (Seltzer water with lime, bottled soda)

The Drunk Driver

- Do you know anybody that has been arrested for DWI? How did their life change?
- How would your perception of somebody change if you knew that they routinely drove impaired or were convicted of intoxicated driving?

The Fines

- What is the fine for a first DWI in Texas (if there is no child under 15 in the car)? (Up to \$2,000)
- A second (if there is no child under 15 in the car)? (Up to \$4,000)
- A third? (Up to \$10,000)

The Fingerprints

- Why might the police take your fingerprints after a DWI? (Your fingerprints are unique to you, by recording them, the police have a record that *you* are the person that committed a crime. So, even if your name or other personal information changes, the DWI will always be tied to your fingerprints)

The Funeral

- Do you know anybody that has died as a result of an impaired driving crash?
- How do you think your family would feel if *you* died because you were drinking and driving?
- How many people in Texas die each year as a result of impaired driving crashes? (In 2014, there were 1,041)

The Handcuffs

- If you are arrested for DWI, the police will likely put you in handcuffs. How would this make you feel?

High Insurance Rates

- How does a DWI affect auto insurance rates? (Because you will likely be classified as a high risk driver, your auto insurance rates will increase by \$75-\$2,400 annually)

The Ignition Interlock Device (IID)

- What is an IID? (A device that will not let your car start unless you blow into it and it determines that there is no alcohol in your system)
- What might your friends think if you have an IID in your car?
- If you use your car for your employment, what might your clients think if you have an IID installed?
- If you use a car owned by your employer for work, but you can only drive a car with an IID installed, what might happen? (You might be fired as the employer is unwilling to install an IID on the vehicle)

Impaired Driving

- What is impaired driving? (Driving a car when you are impaired by illegal drugs, legal drugs (either prescription or over the counter), alcohol, or some other substance)
- What are the consequences of impaired driving? (Injury, death, arrest, etc.)

The Injury

- What are some injuries that could result from a DWI?
- Do you know anybody that has been injured or killed in a DWI crash?

The Judge

- What does a judge do in a DWI case? (Among other things, decides the punishment in the case)
- If a DWI case goes to trial, who decides if the accused is guilty or innocent? (A judge or jury)

The Legal Fees

- How much does it cost to hire a lawyer in a DWI case? (It varies greatly, but it can be up to \$10,000, and this is in addition to any other fines, surcharges, and costs!)

The Limit

- At what blood alcohol content is someone presumed to be intoxicated? (.08)

Loss of License

- How might your life change if your license is suspended or revoked because of a DWI?
- How do you think your friends and family will feel if you are constantly asking them for rides?

The Lost Future

- How might a DWI affect your future?
- If you were an employer, would you hire someone with a DWI on their record?
- What aspects of your future could a DWI affect besides employment? (If you want to apply to college or graduate school, you have to disclose your DWI)

The Orange Jumper

- Have you ever seen an alleged criminal wearing an orange jumpsuit in court?
- How would you feel if you had to wear this?

Our Lost Loved Ones

- Approximately how many people in the U.S. per year are killed in alcohol-impaired crashes? (Between 10,000 and 10,500 – in 2013, there were 10,076)
- How would you feel if somebody that you loved was killed in an impaired driving crash?

The Parole Officer

- When would somebody be put on “parole”? (If they are released from prison before the end of their sentence)
- What might someone on parole have to do? (Report to a parole officer on a regular, typically monthly, basis)
- Do you know anybody that has been on parole? If so, how did it change their life?

The Photo

- Did you know that if you are arrested for DWI, you might get your photo taken (a “mugshot”)? Then it might be posted on a website for everyone to see!

The Police

- What might happen if the police pull you over on suspicion of DWI? (Field sobriety tests, an arrest, a Breathalyzer, a blood draw)

The Prisoner

- How long must someone spend in jail/prison for a 1st DWI offense? (3 days-6 months; if there was an open container of alcohol in the car, then 6 days-6 months)
- A second? (30 days-1 year)
- A third? (2-10 years)

Probation

- What are some possible conditions if you get put on probation (also known as “community supervision” for a DWI? (No consumption of alcohol, report to a probation officer monthly, do not commit any other crimes)
- How long will probation typically last for a first DWI offense? (12-18 months)

Public Transportation

- What are some modes of public transportation that might be available if you are drinking? (Buses, subways, trains)

The Responsible Friend

- If you see a friend considering drinking and driving, what should you do? (Do whatever you can to stop them from driving!)

The Sobriety Test

- What might an officer make somebody do during a “standard field sobriety test”? (Balancing tests, the “Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus,” (follow a small object with the eyes))

The Social Outcast

- What might your friends think of you if you get a DWI?
- If your license is suspended, how might this adversely affect your relationships with your friends?

State Trooper

- How is a State Trooper different from a city police officer? (They typically enforce traffic laws on highways, they may patrol long stretches of road that span many cities whereas city police officers generally stay within their city)

The Taxi

- What ways can make it easier to get a taxi? (Put a taxi company's phone number in your cell phone, pre-arrange the pickup at the time and location where you will be)
- What are some alternatives to a taxi to get home safely if you are intoxicated? (Get a ride from a sober friend or family member)

The Ticket

- Is a DWI citation ("ticket") the same as a speeding ticket? (No. While a speeding ticket is serious, a DWI is more serious and can result in more severe penalties)

The Tow Truck

- If you are arrested for suspicion of DWI, will the police officer let you continue to drive that day? (Of course not)
- Because you cannot drive, what happens to your car after you are arrested? (It gets towed)
- How much might you have to pay the towing company? (\$30-\$350)
- If your car is towed after a DWI, can police search it? (Yes)

Unemployment

- What might happen to your job if you get a DWI? (You may be fired)
- Will it be harder to find a new job with a DWI on your record? (Yes)

Your Record

- How might having a DWI on your record affect your ability to get a job? (It makes it much harder and many employers will disregard your application based on this fact alone)

Sources

1. Mark Agee, *Driving Drunk Can Take a Financial Toll*, Texas District and County Attorneys Association Forum, [http://tdcaa.infopop.net/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/157098965/m/2741000241?r=1111030241 - 1111030241](http://tdcaa.infopop.net/eve/forums/a/tpc/f/157098965/m/2741000241?r=1111030241-1111030241) (accessed February 11, 2016).
2. *Texas Legislature Online*, <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/> (accessed February 11, 2016).