

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

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## **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).