

# Living and Working in the United States: New York State Traffic Law



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# A Lesson in the Traffic Laws of New York State

1. **Driver's Licenses**
2. **Road Signs and Traffic Lights**
3. **Speed Limit**
4. **Car lights**
5. **Tinted Windows**
6. **Seat Belts**
7. **Cell Phone Use**
8. **Accidents**
9. **Driving under the Influence of Alcohol**
10. **Fines**

# DO NOT DRIVE WITHOUT A DRIVER'S LICENSE



- In order to drive in New York State, you are required to have an official driver's license of the State of New York, of another state, or of Canada.
- To obtain a license, you must be at least 16 years of age.

# ROAD SIGNS AND TRAFFIC LIGHTS



- You must obey all road signs and traffic lights.
- Where there is a stop sign, you must come to a complete stop before continuing.

# Speed Limit



- It is necessary that you obey the speed limit at all times.
- The most common reason for which individuals are stopped by the police is for exceeding the speed limit.

# Car Lights



- Be sure that all lights on your car are functioning, including your turn signals and headlights.
- Your lights must be on at night, when it is raining, or when it is foggy.
- Having your lights on during the day makes your vehicle more easily visible to others, and reduces the risk of an accident.
- Therefore, your lights should be on at all times.

# Tinted Windows



- The driver's side window may never be tinted.
- In a car, only the rear window may be tinted if there are rearview mirrors on either side of the car. No other windows may be tinted.
- In a light (pickup) truck, van, or SUV, the windows behind the driver may be tinted, including the rear window.

# SEAT BELTS



- New York State law requires that all persons seated in the front wear their seat belts.
- If you or the front seat passenger do not wear a seat belt, both the driver and passenger can be fined up to \$100, and you may receive up to 3 points on your license record.





- All passengers under 16 years of age must wear a seat belt.
- Children under 4 years must be seated in a certified car seat.
- Children between the ages of 4 and 6, or those that are under 4 years of age but weigh more than 40 lbs., must be seated in a booster seat.
- The car seat must be properly secured with a seat belt.



Carefully read all instructions for use of the car seat or request help to ensure correct and effective use of the child safety seat.



Do not allow small children to sit in the front of a vehicle with air bags.



In the event of an accident, airbags are dangerous and may be fatal to children seated in the front.

# Cell Phone Use



If you are driving, the law prohibits the use of cell phones that require the use of your hands.

Using a cell phone while driving is dangerous and may result in a ticket or an accident.





However, in case of an accident or other emergency you can and should use your cell phone to call 911, the fire department, or the police.

Also, you may use a cell phone that has a "hands free" headset. That is, a phone that does not require the use of your hands.



# Traffic Accidents



1. If you have an accident, you must stop and exchange information with the person with whom you had the accident.

2. If the accident causes damage to your vehicle, you should give and collect the following information:

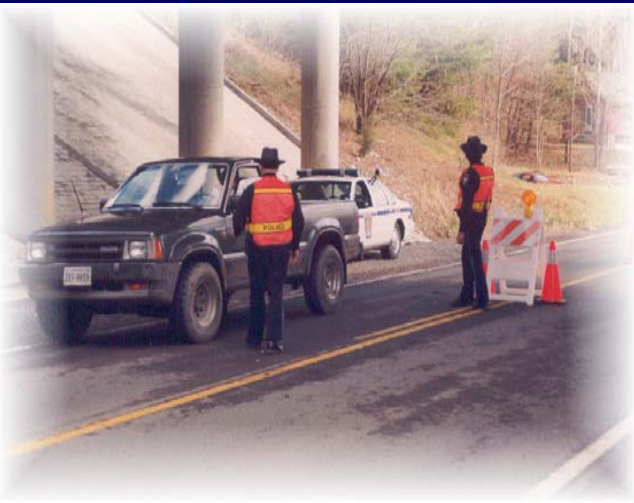
A. License number

B. Insurance information

C. Vehicle registration

D. Telephone numbers of those drivers involved in the accident

\* You must exchange your information even if you are not responsible for the accident.





# Driving Under the Influence

**Don't Drink and  
Drive.**

# B.A.C.



- What is BAC?
  - The content of alcohol in your blood
  
- What affects your BAC?
  - How much alcohol you drink
  - How much time passes between drinks
  - Your weight
  - If you are male or female
  - \* Your BAC does not depend on what type of alcoholic beverage you consume, your physical condition, nor your "tolerance" for alcohol. Different drinks do not affect you in different ways. Alcohol is alcohol.

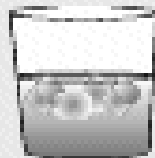


# ONE Alcoholic Beverage is Equal to:



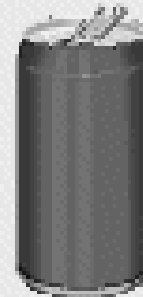
5 oz. glass of wine  
12% alcohol

OR



1 1/2 oz. liquor  
40 proof

OR



12 oz. (340 ml)  
can of beer  
5% alcohol

OR



12 oz. (340 ml)  
wine cooler  
5% alcohol

**The level of alcohol in the bloodstream (BAC) differs between persons, according to their weight and gender:**

<b>Person</b>	<b>Number of Drinks</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>BAC</b>
<b>Man, 95 kilos</b>	<b>5 beers</b>	<b>1 hour</b>	<b>0.08</b>
<b>Man, 68 kilos</b>	<b>5 beers</b>	<b>1 hour</b>	<b>0.11</b>
<b>Woman, 68 kilos</b>	<b>5 beers</b>	<b>1 hour</b>	<b>0.14</b>

# TIME



**The amount of alcohol in your bloodstream is dependent upon the amount of time that has passed since the last alcoholic beverage you consumed. Only time can lower your BAC.**



# Consider:



<b>Person</b>	<b>Number of Drinks</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>BAC</b>
Man, 68 kilos	5	1 hour	<i>0.11</i>
Man, 68 kilos	5	4 hours	<i>0.08</i>
Woman, 68 kilos	5	1 hour	<i>0.14</i>
Woman, 68 kilos	5	6 hours	<i>0.08</i>

**If you drink the same number of drinks in less time, your BAC will be higher.**

# DWI: Driving While Intoxicated



- BAC of 0.08 or more

## Consequences:

1. Fine of \$500.00-\$1000.00 (more if you are a repeated offender)
2. Suspension of your license for up to 6 months
3. Incarceration for up to 1 year, or more if you kill or seriously injure another person, or if you are a repeated offender
4. Deportation (if you are undocumented)



# DWAI: Driving While Ability Impaired

- BAC of 0.05 to 0.079

May Result in:

- For first-time offenders, a fine of \$300-\$500.00
- Suspension of driver's license for up to 90 days
- Incarceration for up to 15 days
- Deportation (if you are undocumented)



It is important to note that the affects of alcohol on your driving ability actually begin before your BAC reaches 0.05 (the level of DWAI) - after only one drink.



# Zero Tolerance



Remember:


It is illegal to drink if you are a minor (under 21). Therefore, if you are a minor and have a BAC of over 0.00, it is also illegal, and you can be arrested.



# Drink Responsibly:



- If you are going to drink, don't drive. Have a "designated driver" – someone who is not going to consume alcohol – and give them your keys.
- Eat food before and while you drink – it will slow (but not prevent) the absorption of alcohol into your bloodstream.
- Drink in moderation, and space out your alcoholic drinks.



It is a simple fact: the more you drink in a given period of time, the higher your BAC will be, and the less safe your ability to drive.

**Remember, for your own well-being and for that of your family:**

**If you drink, don't drive.**

**If you drive, don't drink.**

# Summary:

# Driving with Caution



- Do not drive without a license.
- Obey all road signs and traffic lights.
- Pay attention to the speed limit.
- Be sure that all parts of the vehicle are in compliance with the law, including the lights and windows.



- Buckle your seat belt, and be sure that all passengers in your vehicle have their seat belts fastened as well.
- Small children and babies should travel in special car safety seats.
- Avoid distractions, and don't use your cell phone while driving.
- Finally, remember:  
If you drive, don't drink! If you drink, don't drive.  
It is not worth the risk.

# Attention!



This presentation does not include all traffic laws that you are expected to obey.

You must obey all traffic laws of the State of New York, even if not mentioned here.

To see a more complete list, you can visit the Department of Motor Vehicles web site, or read the driver's manual, which is available both in English and in Spanish.

Information in English:

<http://www.nydmv.state.ny.us/>