

# Experienced Chicago DUI Lawyers Fighting for Your Rights

When you're facing DUI charges in Chicago, the consequences can be overwhelming. Your future, career, and freedom are all at stake. At our family-owned [criminal defense law firm](#), we understand the stress and uncertainty you're experiencing.

Our dedicated team of **Chicago DUI lawyers** is here to fight for your rights and provide the strong defense you need. With years of experience navigating Illinois DUI laws, we offer personalized strategies tailored to your unique situation. From your first free consultation, you'll see the difference our caring, results-driven approach makes.

Don't let a DUI charge derail your life – [Schedule Your Free Initial Consultation Now](#)

## WHY CHOOSE KTENAS LAW

- ✓ **Proven Success:** Years of experience in defending DUI cases across Chicago and Illinois.
- ✓ **Personalized Defense:** Tailored legal strategies for every client.
- ✓ **Affordable Representation:** Flexible payment plans available.
- ✓ **Transparent Communication:** We keep you informed every step of the way.

**(312) 800-1626**



## How much does a DUI lawyer cost in Illinois?

Hiring a DUI lawyer in Illinois can cost anywhere from \$3,500 to \$6,000 for a solid, respectable attorney. Some lawyers might advertise lower prices, like \$500 to \$1,500, but here's the catch: those cheap rates often mean they'll push you to plead guilty fast instead of fighting your case. You get what you pay for, and a low price could mean less effort on your defense.

At Ktenas Law, we keep it real with our clients. Our DUI representation starts at \$3,000, depending frequently the severity of the case, and we offer flexible payment plans to make it easier on your wallet. We focus on high-quality defense without hidden tricks—our goal is to help you through this tough time with a fair price.

**Related:** [How to beat your DUI?](#)

## Penalties for a DUI Conviction in Illinois

A DUI conviction in Chicago can lead to severe consequences, depending on factors such as the number of offenses and the specifics of the case. Understanding these potential penalties is crucial for anyone facing DUI charges.

### Fines and Costs of a DUI

It's generally understood that DUI convictions are costly. But the true financial impact can be staggering. A [first-time DUI offense](#) can easily cost a defendant around \$5,000, and in some cases, over \$10,000.

Not many people have that kind of money just sitting around. This means a DUI conviction can quickly lead to serious money problems and debt.

These costs come from different places. Of course, the court will fine you, but you'll also have to pay other fees. These can include:

- Legal fees (for your lawyer)
- DMV fees (for the Department of Motor Vehicles)
- Fees for drug and alcohol education classes
- Higher car insurance payments

### License Suspension

A DUI conviction often leads to your [driver's license being suspended](#). This means you won't be allowed to drive for a certain period.

For a first DUI, your license could be suspended for up to one year.

- If you get another DUI, the suspension can last much longer.
- In some cases, your driver's license might even be taken away permanently.
- To get your license back, you'll have to go to administrative hearings. At these hearings, you'll need to explain your case to a hearing officer.

Even after you get your license back, there might be more restrictions. You might have to use a device called an alcohol ignition interlock device in your car. This device tests you for alcohol or drug use before you can start the car.

## Jail Time

A DUI conviction can land you in jail, but the time you serve depends on how serious the offense is. For a first-time DUI, you could face up to one year behind bars. If it's not your first offense or if the DUI is considered aggravated, the jail sentence could be much longer.

Certain things can make a DUI charge more severe, turning it from a misdemeanor into a felony. These are called aggravating factors. For example, having a high blood alcohol concentration ([BAC](#)) or causing an accident that hurts someone can increase your jail time and bump up the penalties.



## How Breathalyzer and Field Tests Affect Your DUI Case

If stopped for suspected DUI in Illinois, an officer may ask you to exit your car and take tests to gather evidence for a DUI charge. The primary tests include:

- [Field Sobriety Tests](#): These are physical and mental exercises that the officer uses to judge your coordination and mental state. Examples include walking a straight line, standing on one leg, or following the officer's finger with your eyes.
- [Breathalyzer Tests](#): This involves blowing into a device that measures the amount of alcohol in your breath, which is used to estimate your blood alcohol concentration (BAC).

## Your Rights and Choices

It's important to know your rights in this situation. While you *do* have to get out of the car when an officer asks you to, you **do not** have to agree to perform either test. You have the right to refuse these tests. Additionally, you have the right to ask for a lawyer and the right to remain silent.

## The Consequences of Refusal

However, refusing these tests comes with its consequences. Illinois law states that if you refuse to take a breathalyzer or other chemical test (like a blood or urine test), your driver's license will be suspended for a longer period than if you had taken the test and failed.

## Why Refusal Can Help Your Defense

Even though there are consequences to refusing, it can sometimes make it easier for a lawyer to defend you against a DUI charge. Here's why:

- **Lack of Direct Evidence:** If you refuse a breathalyzer, the prosecution won't have a specific BAC number to use as evidence against you. This can make their case weaker.
- **Subjectivity of Field Sobriety Tests:** Field sobriety tests are often subjective, meaning the officer's interpretation of your performance can be open to question. Refusing them removes this potentially unreliable evidence.

Ultimately, the decision of whether or not to take these tests is a personal one. It's crucial to weigh the immediate consequences against the potential benefits for your legal defense.

## DUI Laws in Chicago

DUI in Chicago is a grave charge with strict laws and hefty penalties. In Illinois, a DUI occurs if a driver has a BAC of 0.08%+ or is drug-impaired. Stricter rules apply for commercial drivers and those under 21.

### General Laws

**BAC Limits** For most drivers, a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08% or higher means a DUI. The limit is lower for drivers under 21 and commercial drivers.

**Impairment by Drugs** DUI laws cover more than just alcohol. You can get a DUI if you're impaired by drugs—legal ones like prescription meds or illegal substances.

## **CDL Drivers**

**Lower BAC Limit** Commercial drivers, like truck drivers, face a stricter BAC limit of 0.04%. This rule exists because their jobs come with bigger responsibilities.

**Consequences** A DUI conviction can suspend or revoke a CDL driver's commercial license. This could hurt their job and income, even if their personal license stays active.

## **Drivers Under 21**

**Zero Tolerance** Drivers under 21 face a zero-tolerance rule. Any trace of alcohol (BAC of 0.00%) while driving can lead to a DUI charge. No exceptions.

**Penalties** A DUI for underage drivers brings tough penalties: automatic license suspension, fines, and required alcohol education or treatment. It can also mess up

their driving record, making it hard to get a license later.

DUI laws in Chicago are strict and vary depending on the driver's age and type of vehicle. If you're a [commercial driver](#), a minor, or an adult with a standard license, know these rules. They can help you navigate the legal system and seek advice if facing DUI charges.

## The DUI Court Process in Chicago

If you're dealing with a drunk driving charge in Chicago, you might be feeling pretty nervous about what's going to happen next. Understanding the DUI court process can help ease some of that worry. The good news is that with the right help, you have a chance to challenge the charges against you.

In court, the prosecutor has to prove your guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, which means there's a lot of room to build a defense. Here's what you can typically expect:

1. Arraignment
2. Pre-Trial Motions and Hearings
3. Discovery Phase
4. Plea Bargaining
5. Trial
6. Sentencing

Want to learn more about what happens next? Keep reading to find out all the details about [the DUI process in Illinois](#) and how it could affect you.

## Most DUI Frequently Asked Questions

### Will my license be suspended because of my DUI arrest?

If you've been arrested for a DUI, you might be wondering, "[Will my license be suspended](#) because of this?" It's a big concern, especially for drunk drivers in places like DuPage County.

The truth is, your license could be at risk of suspension depending on the circumstances of your arrest. The good news is that there are ways to fight it and keep your record clean. It's important to understand what's at stake and what you can do to try and prevent a suspension.

### How can I get my license back after it has been suspended for DUI?

There are several ways to [get your license back](#) if you have lost your license because you were arrested for DUI. The first way is to petition the court to have a hearing. This hearing is commonly referred to as a

petition to rescind the statutory summary suspension and requires an evidentiary hearing in front of a judge. If your license is revoked, you must have a hearing with the [Secretary of State](#) in order to get your license back.

## **How long does a DUI stay on your record in Illinois?**

In Illinois, a drunk driving conviction stays on your driving record permanently. Unlike some other offenses, a DUI cannot be expunged or sealed, meaning it will remain visible to law enforcement, employers, and others who check your record.

## **Do I have to take the field sobriety tests?**

In Illinois, a police officer cannot force you to take [field sobriety tests](#).

It is your right to refuse to take any tests that you do not wish to accept. A refusal of tests, however, can still lead to your arrest and to your license being suspended.

## **Do I have to take the breathalyzer test?**

In Illinois, a police officer cannot force you to take a [breathalyzer test](#). It is your right to refuse to take any tests that you do not wish to accept. A refusal of tests, however, can still lead to your arrest and to your license being suspended.

## **If I am stopped for DUI, am I being video and audio recorded?**

In Illinois, police officers are not required to video and/or audio record your investigation. Some police departments have video and audio recording devices. If however, your arrest is being recorded, the police officers and prosecution are required to give you a copy of the recording.

## **Hire a Top Criminal Defense Lawyer**

When facing DUI charges in Cook County, experience matters. Ktenas Law brings years of successful DUI defense to your case. We understand local laws, court procedures, and effective defense strategies. Don't settle for less when your future is at stake – choose the experience and aggressive representation of our [criminal defense attorneys](#).

Don't leave your future to chance—contact us today at [312-800-1626](tel:312-800-1626) to schedule an initial free consultation and start defending your rights.