

TOP TEN WAYS TO GET A DWI THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The following are useful anecdotes compiled from actual DWI cases involving men, women, the younger driver, the older driver, etc. in response to the question: **“What caused you to come to the attention of the police officer that night?”**

10. **“We were only celebrating my friend’s engagement (promotion), etc.”** Be sure to be leaving the club late and tell yourself that the police car across the street is probably investigating a burglary. Act indignant when they tell you to step outside as you’re putting the key into the ignition.
9. **“I was only going down the block, officer.”** Your friend, wife, etc. needed a jumpstart, you’ve had a few beers and the police officer coming down the block notes the erratic way you backed out of the driveway.
8. **“I left my car home so I could drink, and honestly, officer I’m much less drunk than this young lady who almost got us killed.”** Nice guys finish last if you have been drinking and then step up to drive. YOU will get the DWI, even though you started out with good intentions.
7. **“It’s only a flat tire, officer, I really don’t need any help.”** Be sure that your eyes are bloodshot, you have alcohol on your breath and its 3 a.m.
6. **“I’m too young and too hip to get a DWI.”** Drive your cool truck to the latest hot nightspot on Long Island, knowing full well you will be drinking. As you drive home at 4:30 a.m. with the radio blasting, you fail to hear the police siren telling you to pull over. After you are arrested for DWI, watch your truck being impounded and your future insurance rates go into the stratosphere. But, “...at least you didn’t kill someone.” Be prepared to be working to pay off the costs of your DWI for a very long time.
5. **You’re having a New Year’s party at home, because its safer than “being out there with all those drunks.”** You’re feeling very “happy” with all your friends and you discover that you’re running low on a key ingredient to that new drink everyone thinks you’re so sophisticated to be serving. You dash out to go to the convenience store and suddenly you’re in a police checkpoint with nowhere to escape. You’re busted.
4. **You’re having a few drinks to celebrate your friend’s end-of-year retirement.** You forget that you take medications that interact with alcohol, so you pull to the shoulder of the Parkway, so you don’t have an accident. Awaken to a State Police officer tapping on your car window two hours later. Be breathalyzed at .15 and spend the night in jail anyway.
3. **“But officer, I honestly had only two drinks.”** Yes, you had two drinks at the club, party, etc. you just left at 2 a.m. You just “forgot” to add in all the beer and mixed drinks you had all night before those final two shots. Total: 12 drinks over a 5 hour period. Result? DWI
2. **You’re so happy to be picking up your out-of-town relative/friend, etc. that you have a few drinks before you leave to go to the airport to pick them up.**

Because you engage in a verbal altercation with a Port Authority police officer who tells you to move your car, Port Authority Police are summoned and you are arrested. Suffer enormous embarrassment when you fail to show up to meet your visitor who waits patiently for you all night at the airport. You aren't there because you're being hauled away in handcuffs to the local precinct.

1. **“Did I really hit someone back there on 57th St? Honestly, officer, I didn't see a thing.”** Leaving the scene of an accident caused by drinking does not exonerate you from any of its consequences, and certainly ups the ante in a major way. Lose about 5 years of your life, along with liens on property and future earnings.

SUMMARY:

In case you didn't get it, most people who get DWI's didn't think it would happen to them. DWI's happen to nice people, some who are not full-blown alcoholics. DWI's also happen to people who are drunk and asleep in their car, even though it's not running. No matter what the reason, if you think you must drive and you have been drinking, don't take the chance. Don't let someone else drive your car who you think is *less* drunk than you. *If there's an accident, you are still legally involved if it's your car.*

If you're going partying, clubbing, etc. have at least \$20-40 for cabfare in your pocket along with the number of the car service you plan to use at the end of the night. Don't impulsively spend the money on anything else other than getting home safely. The cost of cabfare for the night is an infinitesimal price to pay vs. the actual costs of a DWI (minimum \$5,000, and can be as high as \$10,000) considering legal fees, fines, Drinking Driver class, possible professional evaluation, possible referral to treatment, conditional license fee, reinstatement fee, lost wages, increases in insurance rates, etc.

If you get a DWI, the problem will not “go away” for at least 1-1+ years, possibly much more. Once you get “in the system” it will be a source of intense anger and frustration. After all this, if you get your license back successfully, please remember to not drink and drive again because sometimes lightning **does** strike twice in the same place and the consequences the second time are even more severe!

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