



## HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST: WHY YOU SHOULD RETAIN A DUI ATTORNEY

Prosecutors love to negotiate plea bargains. The state would like nothing more than to have you plead guilty to DUI so it can avoid having to try your case. However, if your DUI case presents significant issues with protocol or evidence, there is a good chance you could defeat your charges. For these reasons, you should meet with a DUI lawyer to discuss your case and determine whether a plea bargain or a trial is in your best interests.

By working with an attorney, you can avoid the prosecution's attempts to railroad you into a plea, which could reap disastrous effects on your life for years to come. If, however, you decide a plea bargain is in your best interests, your DUI attorney can help you negotiate the best possible terms in light of your situation.



## WALK THE LINE: HANDLING YOUR FIELD SOBRIETY TEST

The field sobriety test is one of the most nerve-wracking aspects of the DUI stop. Officers require test subjects to perform various physical and mental tasks that could prove difficult for any person — not just those under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you are asked to perform a field sobriety test, you will likely be very nervous and could possibly fail certain portions of the test.

If you end up “failing” your field sobriety test, take heed — these tests only serve as circumstantial evidence of intoxication. In other words, a failed sobriety test may be evidence you were driving drunk, but it is not conclusive. For example, it is very difficult for any person to stand with one foot elevated for thirty seconds; however officers routinely ask this of DUI suspects. If you failed this portion of the test, your DUI attorney can easily assert your issues were related to uneven pavement, weather, the shoes you were wearing or the time of day.



## TROUBLE IN THE REARVIEW: WHAT TO DO IF YOU'VE BEEN PULLED OVER FOR DRUNK DRIVING

Flashing lights in the rearview mirror is never a good sign. If you have been pulled over and the police suspect drunk driving, there are several important principles to remember. First, always remember: less is more. The less you say to the police, the better. This is not to say that you should not be cooperative and forthcoming with information when asked. However, never volunteer information such as “I’ve only had two beers” or “my last drink was over four hours ago!” By making these statements, regardless of your innocent intentions, you have just admitted to drinking before driving.

As a general rule, only answer questions from the police that cannot be interpreted, skewed or inferred to show guilt. For instance, you should answer questions about your identity, address, age, and so forth. Otherwise, respectfully decline to speak without the assistance of an attorney.