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The Charge for Driving Under the Influence Can Keep You Reeling for Years by Kellee Parker

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Youâ€™ve been arrested in California on a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol, and youâ€™re going to end up forking over a good chunk of cash before long. If youâ€™re a first-timer who is found guilty of driving under the influence, youâ€™ll owe $7,000 to $10,000, according to facts collected in Southern California.

If you do get nabbed for DUI, you probably donâ€™t want it to happen in California, because the state has some of the most severe laws of any state in the union. You can easily owe $10,000 in penalties, but after the dust clears, you might find that youâ€™ll end up spending a larger sum in additional charges and costs.

If youâ€™ve had any past DUI convictions, expect to pay a substantial amount more in penalties, and the same is valid if there is a minor in the car when youâ€™re arrested. Youâ€™re going to have to find th cash for bail or bond, and that can be up to around $2,000 for a first-time offender.

The cost of towing and impounding your car, as well as storage charges while your car is being held, can set you back a few thousand dollars extra. You might find that your car is going to be auctioned by the state if you canâ€™t meet the stiff fees youâ€™ll owe for towing, impounding and housing your seized automobile.

If a sober passenger in your car is able to operate your car, you can save yourself the towing and impounding charges that youâ€™d otherwise have to pay. If youâ€™ve had relatively low auto insurance rates, you can kiss them goodbye; as a Laguna Beach DUI lawyer will tell you, expect your insurance premiums to go through the roof.

A worst case scenario could also include your auto insurer electing to drop you as a client, simply because you were picked up for DUI. Over the course of the next three years, youâ€™ll likely be charged an additional $5,000 for insurance, and youâ€™ll lose the opportunity to gain preferred driver status.

You can again receive your good-driver status, but youâ€™ll have to complete five consecutive years without a problem. Depending on where in California youâ€™re arrested, the fines and costs will vary, and the court will have the final say on that.

In total, you can anticipate that youâ€™ll be paying up to 18 grand after being convicted of a DUI charge in the state of California. You could pay anywhere from several hundred dollars to as high as $25,000 in legal fees, an Orange County DUI lawyer will tell you, depending on whether you choose a simple guilty plea or a complex defense.

One thing you should be clear about is that if you drink and drive in California, it can be costly.

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