

American Prosecutors Research Institute

Prior Convictions in Impaired Driving Prosecutions

Targeting Hardcore Impaired Drivers

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Prior Convictions in Impaired Driving Prosecutions

Targeting Hardcore Impaired Drivers

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INTRODUCTION

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) "approximately 1.4 million drivers were arrested in 2001 for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. This is an arrest rate of one for every 137 licensed drivers in the United States." Many of these cases will involve repeat offenders, people who decided to drink and drive after already being convicted for the same offense. A significant number of those with prior offenses will be looking at incarceration in either a jail or prison as almost all states, with only a few exceptions, increase a DWI offense from a misdemeanor to a felony after a certain number of prior convictions.²

When prosecutors lack knowledge that there is a prior conviction or the proper record, these offenders oftentimes slip through the cracks. Yet, these individuals are the most dangerous drivers on the road. "In fatal crashes, drivers with prior DWI convictions are more than three times as likely to be intoxicated as compared to those that do not have any prior DWI convictions." ³

In a perfect world, a prosecutor could type in the defendant's name and date of birth and instantly discover the person's entire driving record, including any prior convictions for DWI. However, in the real world, prosecutors often search numerous locations to determine whether a prior conviction exists, and if it does, where and when it occurred. They must also adhere to a number of constitutional provisions.

- 1 NHTSA's National Center for Statistics and Analysis Traffic Safety Facts 2002 Alcohol
- 2 DWI is used throughout this article to maintain consistency. It should be noted that many states use other terms such as OUI (operating under the influence), DUI (driving under the influence) and OWI (operating while intoxicated). For purposes of this article, these terms are considered to have the same meaning. A state-by-state list of felony DWI statutes may be found at http://www.ndaa-apri.org/apri/programs/traffic/legal_issues_resources.html under the heading State Legislative Charts.
- 3 Alcohol Involvement in Fatal Crashes 2001 Technical Report NHTSA April 2003, pg 17



DISCOVERING THE PRIOR CONVICTION: A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK

"Are there any prior DWI convictions?" is the most significant question a prosecutor asks when charging an impaired driver. At times, the search for priors may feel like looking for the proverbial needle in the haystack. Different agencies maintain records on a person's arrest and conviction. Keep in mind that while these agencies may have information on prior charges or convictions, their records may not be sufficient for use in court. Furthermore, some agencies do not maintain records after a certain amount of time. Not finding a record is no guarantee that one does not exist. DWI offenders may have separate records in a variety of agencies and it is incumbent upon the prosecutor to search as many as possible, including:

• **Prosecutors' Offices:** As a starting point, don't forget to examine the records at the prosecutor's office where the charge is being brought, and if different, the prosecutor's office where the person lives. These two locations may provide a wealth of quick and useful information. While this is not a certified record and the information may not be useful in the courtroom, it will allow the prosecutor to easily and correctly charge the defendant. It may also provide a good faith basis for impeachment during a sentencing hearing. Local prosecutors' offices also may be of assistance in obtaining out-of-state convictions.

Some prosecutors' offices have direct access to their local agencies' records, including law enforcement and state criminal databases. Look up the defendant and see if there are any prior arrests for DWI. If you don't have direct access, have your local law enforcement agency run a criminal history of the defendant through the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN). It is possible the defendant has a prior felony conviction for DWI that is not showing up on the driving records, but is listed on his criminal history.



- Law Enforcement Agencies: These agencies have access to records on a variety of past criminal charges and convictions. Through NCIC (National Crime Information Center), LEIN, and their own records, they can determine if a person has been arrested for DWI. Once an arrest is located, it is generally an easy matter to follow the paper trail. Also, don't forget to ask the officers for the current charge if they know the defendant. In some jurisdictions, officers come across the same person time and time again.
- Departments of Motor Vehicles: Examine the defendant's driving record from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Almost all states have administrative sanctions for a person convicted of DWI. Therefore, that sanction may appear on the driving record. Every DWI defendant should have a driving record attached to the warrant request or it should be part of the paperwork in a prosecutor's file. Be careful, though: these records may not be 100% accurate, depending upon when the prior conviction occurred, the location of the conviction, and the requirements to file DWI convictions with the DMV. DMVs' records are only as good as what was reported to them. But, DMV records still provide the best opportunity to locate when and where a prior conviction occurred.

For contact information for DMVs in other states see Appendix Two or APRI's *Prior Convictions in DUI Prosecutions: A Prosecutors' Guide to Prove Out-of-State DUI/DWI Convictions* published by Lexis Law Publishing.

• County and Municipal Courts: By examining court records, you may find prior convictions that were not reported to the DMV. Also, in a new DWI "leaving the scene" case, the defendant may now claim that the car at the scene was not his; by checking prior court records, you may find prior affidavits of indigency for appointed counsel listing the car as an asset.

- **Probation and Corrections Offices**: Probation officers routinely perform background checks as part of a pre-sentencing investigation. These reports also serve as a great source of information on every aspect of a defendant's life. Also, your local probation office may be able to assist you in determining if a defendant is on probation in another part of the state.
- Newspaper Archives: Now, thanks to search engines like Google, you can quickly check for the possibility of newspaper archives on a particular defendant. This is especially helpful in looking into the prior history of a defendant from another jurisdiction. These searches are also helpful in discovering if the defendant has been arrested on another charge pending disposition of your case.



ELIGIBILITY OF THE PRIOR CONVICTION: LOOK BACK PERIODS

Once it is determined that a prior conviction exists, we must ask if it can be used. This depends on the law in each state. States have different "look back" time limits and different legal requirements which may cause problems when calculating whether you can use another state's prior conviction in your state. For instance, one state can use a prior conviction for up to 12 years, such as Iowa, but another state can only use convictions that happened within the past five years, such as Arkansas.

Records in Arkansas may not exist past the five-year mark. Iowa prosecutors searching for a seven-year-old Arkansas prior to enhance their case won't get those records, resulting in an undercharged defendant under Iowa law. Conversely, a prior conviction in Iowa dating back eight years will not have an enhancing effect on a new charge in Arkansas, since Arkansas only looks back five years.

Full Faith & Credit—Enhancing with Out-of-State Convictions

Article IV, Section 1 of the United States Constitution provides that: "Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records and judicial proceedings of every other state." Therefore, a DWI conviction from one state must be recognized in another state. Like instate convictions, the four corners of the judgment must reflect that all of the defendant's due process rights as enumerated were provided. (See Collateral Attacks, below.)

An out-of-state prior conviction is still vulnerable to attack, despite the constitutional provision mentioned. The standard argument proffered by the defense is that the foreign state's DWI statute varies so significantly from the in-state statute that full faith and credit should *not* be awarded in the instant case. In essence, the argument is: a conviction for *oranges* cannot be used to enhance a conviction for *apples*. If the DWI statute in the foreign state references a BAC of .08 or higher and your statute's reference is .10 BAC, the difference is of such significance as to render the



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prior conviction unusable to enhance the current charge. Another common area of attack is "operation and control" of the motor vehicle. In some states, sitting in a car, keys in the ignition, with the engine turned off is "operation" while in others it is not.

It is the job of the defense attorney to scour the foreign state's statutes for any differences. It is the responsibility of the prosecutor to consult your state's case law to determine how your state's definition of DWI compares to the other state's DWI laws. Also, see APRI's *Prior Convictions in DWI Prosecutions: A Prosecutors' Guide to Prove Out-of-State DUI/DWI Convictions* published by Lexis Law Publishing. This compendium of all DWI statutes in all 50 states and U.S. territories from the last five years is absolutely essential in helping to compare the elements of your state's DWI code with that of another state. To order, contact Lexis Law Publishing at 1.800.562.1197.

OBTAINING THE PRIOR RECORDS

• nce you discover a prior conviction, you must obtain proper certified records for use in the courtroom to enhance the charge. What do you need to prove the prior conviction? Is a prior conviction a sentencing enhancement, or is it a trier of fact question in a trial? Or is it both? The answer will determine the type of records you need.

- **Abstracts:** Some states recognize that abstract records may serve as prima facie evidence of a prior conviction for enhancement. For instance, in Michigan, a driving record printed by the law enforcement agency is admissible evidence in the same manner as the original: "It is prima facie proof of the contents of, and the facts stated in the original." M.C.L.A. 257.204a. This allows a prosecutor to have a driving record printed by the agency, signed by the operator of the machine, and then used in court as a certified business record. The use of abstracts is more readily accepted in lower courts where the judge serves as the trier of fact, but at the trial court level, abstracts may be insufficient for enhancement purposes.
- Driver's License Compact: The District of Columbia and 45 states have entered into a compact called the Driver License Compact (DLC), an agreement among states to maintain only one driving record per person, kept in the person's state of residency. The compact requires all traffic convictions and suspensions to be reported to the defendant's home state for placement on his driving record. This compact is currently being updated and revised in the "Driver License Agreement" (DLA). The new DLA is expected to be more efficient in sharing information on driver convictions and traffic citations among the states. For more information visit the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators' (AAMVA) web site at www.aamva.org/or write to them at 4301 Wilson Blvd. Suite 400, Arlington, VA 22203 (phone: 703.522.4200; fax: 703.522.1553).



• Certified Record of Conviction: Be sure to follow all of the procedures in your state. Some states require a certified conviction from the court of conviction. Others require certified copies from their state's secretary of state. Some states require that out-of-state convictions must be certified according to "the Acts of Congress" or what is commonly called a triple certification. (The clerk certifies the conviction, the judge certifies the clerk, and another clerk certifies the judge. See 28 U.S.C. 1738.)

If you need a certified court record, you will have to contact the court directly. Most courts have prepared forms that can be used to record the information on the prior conviction. Normally, the form will include the defendant's name, home address as listed on the court records, date of birth, driver's license number, conviction, and sentencing date. When contacting the court, ask what information is listed on their form. If the information is not sufficient, ask them to include what you need. Find out what additional information they have in the court file to identify the defendant in their case. Is there a set of fingerprints in the court file? An arrest photo? What was the name of the arresting officer in the prior case? Who was the defendant's attorney in the case? (These names can be useful if you need a witness in your trial to prove identification on the prior conviction.)

On the Horizon

As documented in the Traffic Injury Research Foundation's report *DWI* System Improvements for Dealing with Hard Core Drinking Drivers: Prosecution, prosecutors stated that record keeping was one of the biggest problems in effectively prosecuting hard core repeat offenders. (See pgs 58-66.) Currently, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), and AAMVA are assessing how to effectively track an individual's driving record and ensure that accurate records are kept.

The *Driver Record Information Verification System* (DRIVerS) is intended to be a national integrated driver license information system. This will allow each state to ensure that the person driving will have only one driving

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record, and the record maintained will have all the information needed, including out-of-state traffic citations and DWI convictions. This is already being done with commercial drivers using the *Commercial Driver License Information System* or CDLIS. The current plan is to distribute the DRIVerS database system in the same manner as CDLIS. It will encompass more than 200 million records. For more information visit www.aamva.org.



IN THE COURTROOM

Using Priors in Bond/Bail Hearings

•n average, someone dies from an alcohol related crash every half-hour. In 2002, there were 17,419 alcohol-related deaths on our highways.⁴

Individuals with prior DWI convictions have demonstrated that they will not follow the law and that they are a danger to themselves and society. The repeat offender is a crash waiting to happen. When the defendant is arraigned, use prior convictions to argue the following, as applicable based on the facts of the case and history of the defendant:

- Increased bond.
- No bond.
- Ignition interlock device pending trial.
- An order prohibiting the defendant from transporting children 16 and younger.
- A restricted license for driving only to school, work, medical appointments and the grocery store between set hours.
- An order to not drive, enforced by seizure of the defendant's license tag or club on the defendant's car with the keys held by the court.
- Random alcohol and drug testing.
- Alcohol and drug treatment assessment with an order to follow the recommendations.
- Pre-trial supervision.
- House arrest.

Proving the Prior

There are generally two ways to use a prior DWI conviction in court: (1) as an element of the new charge, thus requiring that it be proven in court during the trial, or during a bifurcated trial; (2) as a sentence enhancement to increase the sentencing range from what would otherwise be a lesser offense. The latter is done at the sentencing with a determination of the control of

4 NHTSA at http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/



mination made by the court as to the validity of the prior conviction. Many states make a distinction between a sentence enhancement and an element of the charge, depending on whether or not the current charge is a felony or a misdemeanor.

Practice Tip: In some cases, defense attorneys will agree to stipulate to prior convictions if their client is found guilty of the present offense. Be sure to have the necessary stipulation prepared in advance and file it with the court immediately.

When bringing a felony DWI charge, many states require that the prosecutor prove the prior conviction during the trial. In some cases, it may be done at the pretrial stage or as an element of the charge put before the grand jury. Additionally, most states require that the trial be a bifurcated, or two-part trial. In the first stage, the new DWI charge is proven. If the jury renders a guilty verdict, that same jury is then asked to determine the defendant's guilt on the prior conviction(s). A few states allow this to occur in the original trial, allowing the prior conviction to come out during the case in chief.

Practice Tip: The prosecution must prove the prior conviction to the trier of fact beyond a reasonable doubt. Simply holding up the records of the prior conviction will not be sufficient. Evidence of the prior conviction must be introduced.

Proving priors involves two elements:

- Is there a prior conviction?
- If there is a prior conviction, is the person on trial now the same person previously convicted? (Identity)

Prosecutors must know the documents and witnesses necessary to prove a prior conviction for this particular defendant.

Admitting Records

Certified court records showing the conviction, the date of the offenses, the conviction dates, and information identifying the defendant at that

time are required as evidence. The Federal Rules of Evidence allow court records to be used for documentation. However, depending on the records you possess, you may need the clerk of the court to testify to their reliability and validity. Are they certified? If not, use the clerk of the court as a witness to validate the records. Do the records bear a seal from the court or a certificate from the custodian? These are questions you need to ask when reviewing the records you received.

Remember:

- FRE 803(6) and 803(8) may be used to admit court records depending on the judge. But these two rules only get past the hearsay exception. You still need to authenticate the records pursuant to FRE 901 or 902 or your state's relevant statutes.
- Also, FRE 803(22) presents a possibility of getting certified copies of prior convictions into evidence. However, the prior conviction must be a felony. Again, know the rules in your jurisdiction.
- Don't forget FRE 801(d)(2)(A) for using prior transcripts or other statements made by the defendant in a plea proceeding. Since delays often occur, request copies of transcripts as soon as you learn they exist.

Identifying the Defendant

Depending on the records and the location of the conviction, identity may be one of the hardest issues to prove in court. Do the records include fingerprints from the defendant in the prior conviction? If so, a comparison would result in an easy identification. Are booking photos available from the prior offense? You must examine the records and look for information on the defendant in the prior case and compare it to your case. Is there a date of birth? Is there a home address listed or other physical description? These bits and pieces of information can aid you in proving the defendant is the same person named in both the prior and current cases. Consider which witnesses you will need to prove that identification. If you are in the same jurisdiction as the prior conviction, will the officer who made the prior arrest remember the defendant? Also consider the probation officer, other officers involved in the previous arrest, or a passenger in the defendant's car. All are possible witnesses for your case.



Practice Tip: Actual representation on a charge is not privileged communication, so consider using the defense attorney from the previous conviction as a witness to prove the defendant's identification. Subpoena the attorney and ask questions using the public information from the court's file, such as the charge, the name of the defendant, the final resolution, and if that defendant is in the courtroom. None of this is privileged information.

The goal here is to be imaginative. Look for ways to prove the connection between the prior conviction and the current charge. Examine who was involved in the prior case. Are they available as witnesses in the current charge?

When the prior conviction is from another state or a distant jurisdiction, the issue of identification can be more difficult. You will want as much information about the defendant in the earlier case as you can obtain. Do you have a signature of the defendant from the prior case, for instance on the arrest card? A comparison of signatures from the prior case to the current charge may provide you with evidence of the identity of the defendant.

Do a comparison of the vital statistics in each case: date of birth, height, weight, hair color, home address. Look for distinguishing physical characteristics, or a similarity of names to show that the defendant and the person previously convicted are the same person. In many jurisdictions this is generally considered by the courts to be sufficient using the "reasonable doubt" standard.

Sentencing the Defendant

In some states, the issue of a prior conviction is not a matter for the trier of fact, but a decision for the sentencing court as an enhanced sentence. The courts will generally use one of three ways to determine if the defendant is the same person as the one previously charged:

- Abstract of the prior conviction,
- Current copy of the defendant's driving record, or
- Admission by the defendant.

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In the sentencing phase, the burden of proof is often lower, requiring the prosecutor to prove the previous conviction only by a preponderance of the evidence rather than by proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Consequently, once the certified conviction is entered, with the same name and date of birth as in your current case, it should be enough for the court to find the defendant guilty of the enhanced charge. A minority of states shifts the burden to the defendant to prove he or she is not the person previously convicted once the prosecutor makes a prima facie showing at sentencing.



COMMON DEFENSES: ATTACKING THE PRIOR CONVICTION

with DWI laws becoming stricter and penalties increasing for offenders, defense attorneys put significant effort into challenging prior convictions. The attack is two-pronged: direct and collateral.

Direct Attacks

In some jurisdictions, it is not uncommon for the defense to return to the original court where the defendant was convicted and attack the judgment, often filing for dismissal or post-conviction relief. They argue the court didn't comply with the court rules, statutes or constitutional due process rights. At times, a judge may agree with their arguments and either dismiss the case or set aside the conviction for a new trial. The defense attorney is now free to return to the jurisdiction with the enhanced DWI charge and move to reduce the charge, arguing that the prior conviction is not valid because it was dismissed or set aside and producing the order of dismissal or of post-conviction relief.

To argue against this challenge, consider your court rules. Do your rules require notice to be given to the prosecutor when moving a court to dismiss a case? Was notice given? Is there a time limit imposed for challenging a case? Was there an appeal taken within the time limit? If not, does this prevent a later challenge before the original court? This is all dependent upon the court rules and case law in the individual jurisdiction.

If you are present to argue the *motion for dismissal* on the earlier charge, look at the motivation for bringing the *motion to dismiss*. Why was there a delay in bringing the motion? Was there counsel in the previous case? Appellate courts routinely look at the factors for delay in bringing a motion to dismiss. Many courts require a finding of a miscarriage of justice to allow for a *motion to withdraw* a guilty plea. Did that happen? Was there a miscarriage of justice? Is the defendant claiming innocence now after such a significant amount of time has passed? These are factors that weigh against allowing the *motion to withdraw a plea*.



In direct attacks, just as in collateral attacks, the courts still desire a final conclusion. There must be the efficient and effective administration of justice. With a delay in bringing a motion directly attacking the previous conviction, the efficient administration of justice is undermined.

Collateral Attacks

The more common approach by the defendant is a collateral attack: a prior conviction cannot be used because it did not comply with the court rules or the case law required in your state. Of course, states may impose a higher burden than the U.S. Supreme Court, but the main issue in this argument is whether or not the defendant had counsel (or, at a minimum, the opportunity for counsel) in the prior case. If the answer is no, then the case cannot be used at all. It cannot be used for enhancement purposes, for impeachment, nor even for consideration at sentencing. See *Burgett v. Texas*, 389 U.S. 109 (1967):

Gideon v. Wainwright established the rule that the right to counsel guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment was applicable to the States by virtue of the Fourteenth, making it unconstitutional to try a person for a felony in a state court unless he had a lawyer or had validly waived one. ... Presuming waiver of counsel from a silent record is impermissible. [citation] To permit a conviction obtained in violation of Gideon v. Wainwright to be used against a person either to support guilt or enhance punishment for another offense [citation] is to erode the principle of that case. Burgett v. Texas, 389 U.S. 109, 114-115 (1967).

Be sure to examine the prior conviction. Was there an attorney appointed or retained on the case? If not, then examine the records. At a minimum, for the prosecutor to prevail in this defense motion, there must be some indication in the record that the defendant waived his right to an attorney. Remember, it is not permissible to presume a valid waiver of an attorney from a silent record. In fact, a silent record raises a presumption of an invalid waiver. If the court records are silent, an attempt should be made to obtain a transcript of the arraignment, plea, and sentencing. Was

a waiver done during those court appearances? If the answer is still no, then the prior conviction cannot be used to enhance the charge against the defendant.

Warning: If the records are completely silent as to a valid waiver of the defendant's right to an attorney on the prior conviction, it must be presumed that there was not a valid waiver and the burden is on the state to prove otherwise.

Good news: If the record does indicate a waiver of the defendant's right to counsel, then the burden is on the defendant to prove that the waiver was not valid, that is, to prove that he did not knowingly waive his right to an attorney. *Moore v. Michigan*, 355 U.S. 155, 161-62 (1957) and *Carnley v. Cochran*, 369 U.S. 506, 517 (1962).

Keep in mind that a transcript is not the only way to prove a waiver. In fact, it is the least common way since most times transcripts are not prepared. Usually, the waiver will appear from the judgment itself, or in the attached documentation such as the register of action. If there is any indication of a waiver, the burden shifts to the defendant, and the burden of proof is by a preponderance of the evidence. See *Moore v. Michigan*, *ibid*.

Practice Tip: Remember to check your individual state's requirements. The U.S. Supreme Court sets a constitutional floor, and some states may have a higher requirement. Some jurisdictions may require that not only do we demonstrate the defendant knowingly waived his right to an attorney, but also that he waived his privilege against self-incrimination, the right to trial by jury, and the right to confront one's accusers. These are the so-called *Boykin* rights which were discussed in the case of *Boykin v. Alabama*, 395 U.S. 238, 89 S.Ct. 1709, 23 L.Ed.2d 274 (1969). That case required a waiver of the *Boykin* rights to appear on the record for a valid plea of guilty.

Remember: While some states may require them, *Boykin* rights are *not* required by the U.S. Supreme Court in the use of prior convictions.



A "Knowing" Waiver

A recent U.S. Supreme Court case affirmed the two aforementioned cases. In *Iowa v. Tovar*, No. 02-1541 (Argued January 21, 2004—Decided March 8, 2004) defendant challenged a prior conviction being used to enhance a DWI charge. The records indicated that he had waived his right to an attorney in the earlier case. Defendant argued that the prior waiver was not a knowing waiver. The argument continued, stating that to be a knowing waiver, the defendant must be informed that an attorney might find a viable defense that was being overlooked, and that with a waiver, he would not be able to get an independent opinion on the case. The Supreme Court of Iowa agreed and ruled that such a warning must be given to show a knowing waiver of a right to an attorney. The National District Attorneys Association submitted an amicus curiae brief asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overrule that decision, which the Court did.

The U.S. Supreme Court noted that a knowing waiver means that the defendant must have a general idea of what is involved; it does not require a specific detailed awareness of the consequences. Thus, a "knowing waiver" is satisfied "when the trial court informs the accused of the nature of the charges against him, of his right to be counseled regarding his plea, and of the range of allowable punishments attendant upon the entry of a guilty plea." *Iowa v. Tovar* 541 U.S. 1; 124 S.Ct. 1379 (2004).

CONCLUSION

Finding prior convictions in impaired driving prosecutions is definitely an art form requiring time, effort and talent. But, the effort is worth every ounce of energy put into it. Repeat hard core offenders place entire communities at risk. These are the people for whom previous arrests, jail time, fines and loss of license have had little impact. Prosecutors have the greatest opportunity to prevent further repeat offenses by making these offenders face the full consequences of their decision to drink and drive. By getting offenders off the streets for the longest time possible, prosecutors can have a huge impact on public safety, with the added benefit that defendants may be more amenable to treatment.



APPENDIX ONE: COURT CONTACTS

ALABAMA

Administrative Director of the Courts 300 Dexter Avenue Montgomery, Alabama 36104–3741

TEL: (334) 242-0300 FAX: (334) 242-2099

ALASKA

Administrative Director of the Courts Alaska Court System 303 K Street Anchorage, Alaska 99501 TEL: (907) 264-0547 FAX: (907) 264-0881

ARIZONA

Administrative Director Arizona Supreme Court 1501 W. Washington St., Suite 411 Phoenix, Arizona 85007 TEL: (602) 542-9301 FAX: (602) 542-9484

ARKANSAS

Director, Administrative Office of the Courts Supreme Court of Arkansas 625 Marshall Street 1100 Justice Building Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

TEL: (501) 682-9400 FAX: (501) 682-9410

CALIFORNIA

Administrative Director of the California Courts 455 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco, California 94102

TEL: (415) 865-4235 FAX: (415) 865-4244

COLORADO

State Court Administrator Colorado Judicial Department 1301 Pennsylvania, Suite 300 Denver, Colorado 80203-5012 TEL: (303) 837-3668

CONNECTICUT

FAX: (303) 837-2340

Chief Court Administrator Supreme Court of Connecticut 231 Capitol Avenue Hartford, Connecticut 06106 TEL: (860) 757-2100 FAX: (860) 757-2130

DELAWARE

State Court Administrator Administrative Office of the Courts 820 North French Street Wilmington, Delaware 19801 TEL: (302) 577-8271

FAX: (302) 577-3139



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Executive Officer Courts of the District of Columbia 500 Indiana Avenue, N.W. Room 1500

Washington, D.C. 20001 TEL: (202) 879-1700 FAX: (202) 879-4829

FLORIDA

State Courts Administrator Supreme Court Building 500 South Duval Street Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1900

TEL: (850) 922-5081 FAX: (850) 488-0156

GEORGIA

Administrative Office of the Georgia Courts 244 Washington Street, S.W. Suite 300 Atlanta, Georgia 30334–5900 TEL: (404) 656–5171 FAX: (404) 463–0860

HAWAII

Administrative Director of the Courts The Judiciary, State of Hawaii 417 South King Street, Room 206 Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 TEL: (808) 539-4900

FAX: (808) 539-4855

IDAHO

Administrative Director of the Courts Supreme Court Building 451 West State Street P.O. Box 83720 Boise, Idaho 83720-0101 TEL: (208) 334-2246 FAX: (208) 334-2146

ILLINOIS

Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts 222 North LaSalle Street, 13th Floor Chicago, Illinois 60601 TEL: (312) 793-3250 FAX: (312) 793-0331

INDIANA

Division of State Court Administration Indiana Supreme Court 115 W. Washington, Suite 1080 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3417

TEL: (317) 232-2542 FAX: (317) 233-6586

IOWA

State Court Administrator Supreme Court of Iowa State House Des Moines, Iowa 50319 TEL: (515) 281-5241

FAX: (515) 242-0014

KANSAS

Judicial Administrator Kansas Judicial Center 301 West 10th Street Topeka, Kansas 66612 TEL: (785) 296-4873 FAX: (785) 296-7076

KENTUCKY

Administrative Office of the Courts 100 Millcreek Park Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-9230 TEL: (502) 573-2350

LOUISIANA

FAX: (502) 573-0177

Judicial Administrator Supreme Court of Louisiana 1555 Poydras Street, Suite 1540 New Orleans, Louisiana 70112-3701

TEL: (504) 568-5747 FAX: (504) 568-5687

MAINE

State Court Administrator Administrative Office of the Courts P.O. Box 4820 Portland, Maine 04112-4820 TEL: (207) 822-0792 FAX: (207) 822-0781

MARYLAND

State Court Administrator Administrative Office of the Courts Maryland Judicial Center 580 Taylor Avenue Annapolis, Maryland 21401 TEL: (410) 260-1295 FAX: (410) 974-2066

MASSACHUSETTS

Administrative Office of the Trial Courts Two Center Plaza, 5th Floor Boston, Massachusetts 02108 TEL: (617) 742-8575 FAX: (617) 742-0968

MICHIGAN

State Court Administrator Office of the State Court Administrator 309 N. Washington Square P.O. Box 30048 Lansing, Michigan 48909 TEL: (517) 373-2222 FAX: (517) 373-2112

MINNESOTA

State Court Administrator Supreme Court of Minnesota 25 Constitution Avenue St. Paul, Minnesota 55155 TEL: (651) 296-2474 FAX: (651) 215-6004



MISSISSIPPI

State Court Administrator 450 High Street, 4th Floor Gartin Building P.O. Box 117 Jackson, Mississippi 39205

TEL: (601) 354-7406 FAX: (601) 354-7459

MISSOURI

State Court Administrator Supreme Court of Missouri P.O. Box 104480 Jefferson City, Missouri 65110

TEL: (573) 751-4377 FAX: (573) 522-6152

MONTANA

State Court Administrator Supreme Court of Montana Justice Building, Room 315 215 North Sanders P.O. Box 203002 Helena, Montana 59620 TEL: (406) 444-2627 FAX: (406) 444-0834

NEBRASKA

State Court Administrator Administrative Office of the Courts/Probation State Capitol Building, Room 1220 P.O. Box 98910 Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-8910

TEL: (402) 471-3730 FAX: (402) 471-2197

NEVADA

State Court Administrator Administrative Office of the Courts 201 S. Carson Street, Ste. 250 Carson City, Nevada 89710-4702

TEL: (775) 684-1717 FAX: (775) 684-1723

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Administrative Office of the Courts Two Noble Drive Concord, New Hampshire 03301

TEL: (603) 271-2521 FAX: (603) 271-3977

NEW JERSEY

Administrative Director of the Courts P.O. Box 037, RJH Justice Complex 25 Market Street Trenton, New Jersey 08625 TEL: (609) 292-1747 FAX: (609) 292-3320

NEW MEXICO

Administrative Office of the Courts 237 Don Gaspar, Room 25 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501-2178

TEL: (505) 827-4800 FAX: (505) 827-4824

NEW YORK

Office of Court Administration 25 Beaver Street, 11th Floor New York, New York 10004 TEL: (212) 428-2100 FAX: (212) 428-2188

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts P.O. Box 2448, 2 E. Morgan Street Raleigh, North Carolina 27602 TEL: (919) 733-7107 FAX: (919) 715-5779

NORTH DAKOTA

State Court Administrator North Dakota Judicial System 600 East Blvd. Avenue, Dept. 180 1st Floor Judicial Wing Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0530 TEL: (701) 328-4216

FAX: (701) 328-4216 FAX: (701) 328-2092

OHIO

Administrative Office Supreme Court of Ohio Rhodes Office Tower 3rd Floor 30 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215-3431 TEL: (614) 466-2653 FAX: (614) 752-8736

OKLAHOMA

Administrative Director of the Courts 1915 N. Stiles, Suite 305 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105 TEL: (405) 521-2450 FAX: (405) 521-6815

OREGON

State Court Administrator Office of the State Court Administrator Supreme Court Building 1163 State Street Salem, Oregon 97310 TEL: (503) 986-5500 FAX: (503) 986-5503

PENNSYLVANIA

Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts Supreme Court of Pennsylvania 1515 Market Street, Suite 1414 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102 TEL: (215) 560-6337

TEL: (215) 560-6337 FAX: (215) 560-5485

PUERTO RICO

Administrative Director of the Courts Office of Courts Administration P.O. Box 190917, 6 Vela Street Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00919-0917

TEL: (787) 641-6623 FAX: (787) 250-7448



RHODE ISLAND

State Court Administrator Supreme Court of Rhode Island 250 Benefit Street Providence, Rhode Island 02903 TEL: (401) 222-3263 FAX: (401) 222-5131

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Court Administration 1015 Sumter St., Suite 200 Columbia, South Carolina 29201 TEL: (803) 734-1800 FAX: (803) 734-1355

SOUTH DAKOTA

State Court Administrator South Dakota Unified Judicial System 500 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, South Dakota 57501 TEL: (605) 773-3474 FAX: (605) 773-5627

TENNESSEE

Administrative Office of the Courts 511 Union Street, Suite 600 Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0607 TEL: (615) 741-2687 FAX: (615) 741-6285

TEXAS

Office of Court Administration Tom C. Clark State Courts Building P.O. Box 12066, Zip 78711-2066 205 West 14th Street, Suite 600 Austin, Texas 78701 TEL: (512) 463-1625 FAX: (512) 463-1648

UTAH

State Court Administrator 450 South State Street P.O. Box 140241 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-0241 TEL: (801) 578-3806 FAX: (801) 578-3843

VERMONT

Court Administrator Supreme Court of Vermont 109 State Street Montpelier, Vermont 05609-0701 TEL: (802) 828-3278 FAX: (802) 828-3457

VIRGINIA

State Court Administrator Supreme Court of Virginia 100 North Ninth Street, Third Floor Richmond, Virginia 23219 TEL: (804) 786-6455

TEL: (804) 786-6455 FAX: (804) 786-4542

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Court Administrator Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands P.O. Box 70 Charlotte Amalie St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00804

TEL: (340) 774-6600 FAX: (340) 776-9889

WASHINGTON

State Court Administrator Supreme Court of Washington Temple of Justice P.O. Box 41174 Olympia, Washington 98504-1174

TEL: (360) 357-2121 FAX: (360) 357-2127

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals E-100, State Capitol Building 1900 Kanawha Boulevard East Charleston, WV 25305-0833 TEL: (304) 558-0145

WISCONSIN

FAX: (304) 558-1212

Director of State Courts 16 East State Capitol P.O. Box 1688 Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1688

TEL: (608) 266-6828 FAX: (608) 267-0980

WYOMING

State Court Administrator Supreme Court of Wyoming Supreme Court Building 2301 Capital Avenue Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

TEL: (307) 777-7480 FAX: (307) 777-3447



APPENDIX TWO: DRIVING RECORD CONTACTS

ALABAMA

Alabama Department of Public Safety Driver License Division Post Office Box 1471 Montgomery, Alabama 36102-1471 TEL: (334) 242-4400 FAX: (334) 242-4639 www.dps.state.al.us/

ALASKA

Susan Miller
Records & Licensing Supervisor
2760 Sherwood Lane
Suite B
Juneau, Alaska 99802
TEL: (907) 465-4361
FAX: (907) 465-5509
www.state.ak.us/dmy/

ARIZONA

Motor Vehicle Division Custodian of Records 1801 West Jefferson Mail Drop #504M Phoenix, Arizona 85001 TEL: (602) 255-7034 FAX: (602) 407-3441 www.dot.state.az.us/MVD/ mvd.htm

ARKANSAS

Arkansas Department
of Driver Services
Driver Records
Post Office Box 1272
Room 1130
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203
TEL: (501) 682-7207
Fax: (501) 682-2075
www.ark.org/dfa/odd/motor_vehicle.html

CALIFORNIA

California Department of Motor Vehicles P.O. Box 944231 Mail Station G201 Sacramento, CA 94244-2310 TEL: (916) 657-5854 www.dmv.ca.gov/

COLORADO

Paula Brown Motor Vehicle Division Driver Services, Room 164 Denver, CO 80261-0016 TEL: (303) 205-5613 FAX: (303) 205-5990 www.mv.state.co.us/mv.html



CONNECTICUT

Copy Records Unit 60 State Street, Room 256 Wethersfield, Connecticut 06161 TEL: (860) 263-5154 FAX: (860) 263-5557 http://dmvct.org

DELAWARE

Division of Motor Vehicles Drivers Licenses Administration Post Office Box 698 Dover, Delaware 19903 TEL: (302) 744-2506 www.dmv.de.gov

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

District of Columbia Motor Vehicle Services Driver Records 301 C Street, N.W. Room 1000 Washington, DC 20001 TEL: (202) 727-6761 (202) 727-6762 www.dmv.washingtondc.gov/serv/drecords.shtm

FLORIDA

Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Division of Driver Licenses 2900 Apalachee Parkway Room B235 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0575 TEL: (850) 488-2741 FAX: (850) 488-3824 GEORGIA

Georgia Department of Motor Vehicle Safety Driver Services Division Post Office Box 80447 Conyers, GA 30013 TEL: (678) 413-8441 FAX: (678) 473-8436 www.dmvs.ga.gov/

HAWAII

Honolulu District Courts Traffic Violations Bureau 1111 Alakea Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Attn: Abstract Department TEL: (808) 538–5500 FAX: (808) 538–5520

IDAHO

Edwin R. Pemble,
Driver Services Manager
Idaho Transportation Department
Driver Services Section
Post Office Box 7129
Boise, Idaho 83707-1129
TEL: (208) 334-8000
FAX: (208) 334-8739
www2.state.id.us/itd/dmy/index.htm

ILLINOIS

Illinois Secretary of State's Office Motor Vehicle Services 2701 South Dirkson Parkway Springfield, Illinois 62723 TEL: (217) 782-2720 www.ilsos.net

INDIANA

Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles IGC North, Room N-405 100 N. Senate Avenue Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 TEL: (317) 233-6836 www.ai.org/ai/help/bmv_ license.html

IOWA

Iowa Department of Transportation Office of Driver Services Post Office Box 9204 Des Moines, Iowa 50306-9204 Phone: (515) 244-9124 www.dot.state.ia.us/mvd/index.htm

KANSAS

Kansas Driver Control Bureau Post Office Box 12021 Topeka, Kansas 66612-2021 TEL: (785) 296-3671 FAX: (785) 296-6851 www.ksrevenue.org

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Department of Motor Vehicles Division of Driver Licensing 501 High Street Frankfort, Kentucky 40622 TEL: (502) 564-6800 x2300 FAX: (502) 564-8242 www.kytc.state.ky.us/drlic

LOUISIANA

Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles Online Driving Records Post Office Box 64886 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896 TEL: (225) 925-6388 E-mail: expresslane@dps.state.la.us omv.dps.state.la.us/odr/odr.asp

MAINE

Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles State House Station #29 Augusta, Maine 04333 Attn: Driving Records TEL: (207) 624–9000 ext. 52116 FAX: (207) 624–9090 www.state.me.us/sos/bmy

MARYLAND

Maryland Department
of Motor Vehicles
Driving Record Certified
Copy Unity
Driving Records Department,
Room 145
6601 Ritchie Highway
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21062
TEL: (410) 787-7758
www.mya.state.md.us/



MASSACHUSETTS

Registry of Motor Vehicles Driver Control Unit Attn: Court Records P.O. Box 199150 Boston, MA 02119-9150 TEL: (617) 351-9213,

(617) 351-9207 FAX: (617) 351-9212

www.state.ma.us/rmv/

MICHIGAN

Michigan Secretary of State Record Lookup Unit 7064 Crowner Drive Lansing, Michigan 48918-1540 TEL: (517) 322-1624 FAX: (517) 322-1181 www.michigan.gov/sos/ 0,1607,7-127-1627-31868— ,00.html

MINNESOTA

index.html

Driver and Vehicle Services
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 180
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-5180
TEL: (612) 296-9504
FAX: (612) 296-5697
E-mail:
motor.vehicles@state.mn.us
www.dps.state.mn.us/dvs/

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Department of Public Safety Driver Improvement Branch Post Office Box 958 Jackson, Mississippi 39205 TEL: (601) 987-1224 www.dps.state.ms.us

MISSOURI

Missouri Department of Revenue Division of Motor Vehicle and Drivers Licensing Driver and Vehicle Services Bureau Post Office Box 200 Jefferson City, Missouri 65105-0200 TEL: (573) 751-4300 (573) 526-4400 for certified copies www.dor.state.mo.us/

MONTANA

Patrick McJannet—Uncertified Department of Justice Driver Services Post Office Box 201430 Helena, Montana 59620-1430 Fax: (406) 444-1631 www.doj.state.mt.us/driving/ drivingrecords.asp

Patty McLaughlin- Certified Records and Driver Control P.O. Box 201430 Helena, Montana 59620-1430 TEL: (406) 444-3670

TEL: (406) 444-36/0 FAX: (406) 444-1631

NEBRASKA

Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles Driver & Vehicle Records Division Post Office Box 94789 Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4789 TEL: (402) 471-3918 FAX: (402) 471-8694 www.dmv.state.ne.us

NEVADA

Department of Motor Vehicles Records Section 555 Wright Way Carson City, Nevada 89711-0250 TEL: (775) 684-4590 FAX: (775) 684-4899 www.dmvnv.com/

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Janet Harriman
Supervisor, Driving Records
New Hampshire Department
of Safety
10 Hazen Drive, Room 208
Concord, New Hampshire 03305
TEL: (603) 271-2322
www.state.nh.us/safety/

NEW JERSEY

New Jersey Department of Motor Vehicles Motor Vehicle Services CN 142 Trenton, New Jersey 08666 TEL: (609) 292-7500 www.dmv.org/driving-record.php

NEW MEXICO

Driver Services Bureau
P.O. Box 1028
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504
TEL: (505) 827-2225
www.state.nm.us/tax/mvd/
mvd home.htm

NEW YORK

Loraine Wilson, Records Manager Department of Motor Vehicles 6 Empire State Plaza, Room 232 Albany, New York 12228 TEL: (518) 486-5957 FAX: (518) 474-0718 E-mail: LW/LS@dmv.state.ny.us www.nydmv.state.ny.us/

NORTH CAROLINA

Driver Records
3113 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina
27699-3113
TEL: (919) 715-7000
www.dmv.dot.state.nc.us/



NORTH DAKOTA

Drivers License Division
Driver Improvement Services
608 East Boulevard
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505
TEL: (701) 328-2603
FAX: (701) 328-2435
www.state.nd.us/dot/

OHIO

Bureau of Motor Vehicles Attn: Abstracts P.O. Box 16520 Columbus, Ohio 43216-6520 TEL: (614) 752-7600 FAX: (614) 995-7946 www.ohio.gov/odps/division/bmv/bmv.html

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Department of Public Safety Driving Records Post Office Box 11415 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73136 TEL: (405) 425-2262 FAX: (405) 425-2046

OREGON

Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles Attn: Record Services 1905 Lana Avenue, N.E. Salem, Oregon 97314 TEL: (503) 945-5430 www.odot.state.or.us/dmv

PENNSYLVANIA

Driving Records
Rebecca L. Bickley, Director
Department of Transportation
Bureau of Driver Licensing
Driver Record Services
Post Office Box 68695
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
17106–8695
TEL: (800) 932–4600 (in state)
(717) 391–6190 (out-of-state)
FAX: (717) 705–2401
www.dmv.state.pa.us/

RHODE ISLAND

Division of Motor Vehicles Operator Control Section 286 Main Street Pawtucket, RI 02860 TEL: (401) 721-2527 FAX: (401) 721-2506 www.dmv.state.ri.us

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Department of Public Safety Driver Records Office Post Office Box 1498 Columbia, South Carolina 29216-0028 TEL: (803) 737-4000 www.scdps.org/

SOUTH DAKOTA

Sonja Briggs
South Dakota Department of
Commerce & Regulation
Office of Driver Licensing
118 West Capital
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2036
TEL: (605) 773-6883 or
1-800-952-3696
www.state.sd.us/dcr/dl

TENNESSEE

Tennessee Department of Safety Customer Service 1150 Foster Avenue Nashville, Tennessee 37210 TEL: (615) 741-3954 FAX: (615) 251-5148 www.state.tn.us/safety

TEXAS

Driver Record Bureau
Texas Department of Public Safety
Post Office Box 149246
Austin, Texas 78714-9246
TEL: (512) 424-2600
www.txdps.state.tx.us/

UTAH

Certified
Utah Department of Public Safety
Drivers License Division
Post Office Box 30560
Salt Lake City, Utah 84130-0560
TEL: (801) 965-4496
FAX: (801) 965-4496
www.publicsafety.utah.gov/

VERMONT

Vermont Department
of Motor Vehicles
Records & Motor Carrier Services
120 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05603
Phone: (802) 828-2050
(802) 828-4824
FAX: (802) 828-2098
(802) 828-2170
www.aot.state.vt.us/dmv.dmvhp.htm

VIRGINIA

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Post Office Box 27412 Richmond, Virginia 23269 TEL: (804) 367-0538 www.dmv.state.va.us



VIRGIN ISLANDS

Virgin Islands Police Department Alexander A. Farrelly Justice Center 2nd Floor Veterans Driver St. Thomas, USVI 00802 TEL: (340) 774-2310 www.vipd.gov.vi/

WASHINGTON

Department of Licensing Driver Record Section Post Office Box 9030 Olympia, Washington 98507-9030 TEL: (360) 902-3913 www.wa.gov/dol

WEST VIRGINIA

Contact: Joetta Gore, Supervisor Driving Records Division of Motor Vehicles Building 3, State Capitol Complex Room 124 Charleston, West Virginia 25317 TEL: (304) 558-0238 www.wvdot.com/6_motorists/ dmv/6g_dmv.htm

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Department of Transportation Records and Licensing Information Section Post Office Box 7995 Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7995 TEL: (608) 266-2353 FAX: (608) 267-3636 www.dot.wisconsin.gov/drivers/

WYOMING

Wyoming Department of Transportation Driver Services 5300 Bishop Blvd. Cheyenne, WY 82009-3340 TEL: (307) 777-4800 FAX: (307) 777-4773

wydotweb.state.wy.us/



American Prosecutors Research Institute 99 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 510 Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Phone: (703) 549-4253 Fax: (703) 836-3195 http://www.ndaa-apri.org



