

What a DUI Will Actually Cost You

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The fine is the smallest number on this page. A Washington DUI is not one bill, it is ten years of them: the interlock, the insurance surcharge, the probation, the days you do not get paid for. Below is the same arrest resolved three different ways, with everything the next decade takes out of your pocket.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES	BEST OUTCOME	CONVICTED	CONVICTED AGAIN
	Reduced to Negligent Driving 1st AMENDED DOWN FROM DUI	DUI, First Offense BAC UNDER .15, NO PRIORS	DUI, Second Offense WITHIN SEVEN YEARS
Fines, court costs, assessments Minimum fine \$350 first, \$500 second, plus a \$250 alcohol fee.	\$500 to \$1,500	\$900 to \$1,600	\$1,400 to \$2,600
Jail, or monitoring in place of it First: 1 day jail or 15 days monitoring. Second: 30 days plus 60.	none required	\$105 to \$600	\$1,900 to \$4,700
Alcohol and drug evaluation Required before sentencing in nearly every alcohol case.	\$75 to \$150	\$75 to \$150	\$75 to \$150
Alcohol school, or ordered treatment ADIS is one day. A second offense means a two-year program.	\$100 to \$200	\$100 to \$2,500	\$3,000 to \$6,000
Victim impact panel One evening. Cash at the door in most counties.	\$35 to \$75	\$35 to \$75	\$35 to \$75
Probation and court monitoring A suspended sentence hangs over you five years, about \$100 a month.	\$0 to \$1,200	\$600 to \$3,000	\$2,400 to \$6,000
Ignition interlock device One year first, five years second, never off until 180 clean days. About \$120 a month plus \$21 to the state.	not required	\$1,600 to \$2,900	\$7,400 to \$9,900
License fees Reinstatement \$170, interlock license \$100, probationary license \$50.	none	\$320 to \$500	\$320 to \$500
Car insurance surcharge SR-22 for three years. Washington drivers pay about \$624 a year more.	\$0 to \$1,800	\$1,900 to \$3,500	\$4,500 to \$7,500
Tow, impound, and storage A DUI arrest triggers a mandatory twelve-hour hold on the car.	\$200 to \$500	\$200 to \$500	\$200 to \$500
Time off work Court, treatment, interlock appointments, every jail or monitoring day.	minimal	\$800 to \$2,000	\$4,400 to \$9,000
Ten-Year Total WHAT THE CASE ACTUALLY COSTS	\$900 TO \$5,400	\$6,600 TO \$17,300	\$25,600 TO \$46,900

Ranges, not quotes. Washington statutory minimums plus typical Thurston County and Puget Sound costs as of August 2026; your case lands somewhere in a range, never on a single number. Defense costs are left out of the totals, since you pay them either way: a first-offense DUI defense in Thurston County generally runs \$5,000 to \$9,000.

AND THREE THINGS THE DOLLAR FIGURES DO NOT SHOW

The reduction can be erased. The DUI never can.

Washington law flatly bars vacating a DUI conviction. A negligent driving conviction reduced from a DUI can be vacated, but only after ten clean years. That is the real ten-year line on this page.

RCW 9.96.060

A commercial license does not survive it.

A DUI disqualifies a CDL for one year, three if hazmat was aboard, and for life on a second. It counts the same whether you were driving a truck or your own car off duty.

Washington Department of Licensing

The clock runs after you stop paying.

Priors count seven years at sentencing, and as of January 1, 2026, fifteen years for felony DUI. The third column is not the ceiling. It is the step before one.

RCW 46.61.5055, RCW 46.61.502

Which column you land in is mostly decided early.

Evidence gets preserved or lost in the first weeks, and the seven-day license hearing deadline runs whether or not anyone tells you about it. If you are looking at the middle or right column right now, a conversation costs nothing.

360.206.2826

FREE CONSULTATION

baldwinduidefense.com

Chester Baldwin has stood on both sides of these cases. He began his career prosecuting them as a Thurston County Rule-9 Prosecutor, and with more than 20 years in criminal law he knows how these cases are built, and where they come apart. *We've been on both sides. Now we're on yours.*

Sources: RCW 46.61.5055 (DUI sentencing grid), RCW 46.61.5054 (\$250 fee), RCW 46.20.720 (interlock periods and the \$21 monthly state fee), RCW 46.20.355 (five-year probationary license), RCW 46.55.360 (mandatory impound), RCW 9.96.060 (vacating convictions), RCW 46.61.502 (felony threshold, fifteen years effective January 1, 2026); Washington State Department of Licensing fee schedule and CDL disqualification tables; published Washington auto-insurance rate data.

General legal information for Washington State, current as of August 2026. Not legal advice; reading it creates no attorney-client relationship. Laws change and every case is different. For advice about your situation, consult a licensed Washington attorney. Baldwin DUI Defense is a registered trade name and DBA of Baldwin Legal Group, PLLC, filed with the State of Washington. 123 Fir Street NE, Olympia, WA 98506. Chester Baldwin · WSBA #39789 · Attorney Advertising. © 2026 Baldwin Legal Group, PLLC.