Position/Policy Statement

Committee on Alcohol and Other Drugs

Sanctions for Drivers Convicted of Alcohol/Drug-Impaired Driving

In order to increase the effectiveness of legal sanctions for persons convicted of alcohol/drug-impaired driving, the National Safety Council recommends that jurisdictions:

• Require license suspension or revocation for fixed periods for all convictions involving impaired driving.

• Eliminate mandatory severe penalties such as jail sentences for first-time offenders of unaggravated impaired driving. All convictions involving impaired driving should be identifiable on driving records.

• Adopt the procedures by which offenders are processed to assure swift and certain adjudication. In particular, consider use of an independent civil procedure to suspend or revoke licenses on an expedited basis.

• Do not mandate alcohol treatment programs as a substitute for license suspension or revocation, but include as a supplement, to these or other sanctions.

• Require for previously-convicted alcohol-impaired drivers the installation and manufacturer's recommended maintenance of an approved ignition interlock device that detects alcohol on the driver's breath.

• Consider a higher penalty for a high illegal blood alcohol concentration range.

• Consider requiring their provision of community service hours.

• Consider requiring restrictions on their driving privileges.

• Consider requiring vehicle forfeiture in extreme cases of repeat offenses.
This position statement reflects the opinions of the National Safety Council but not necessarily those of each member organization.

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