



DRINKING AND THE LAW

Brett Ligon

Montgomery County District Attorney's Office



Driving is not a right,
it is a privilege.

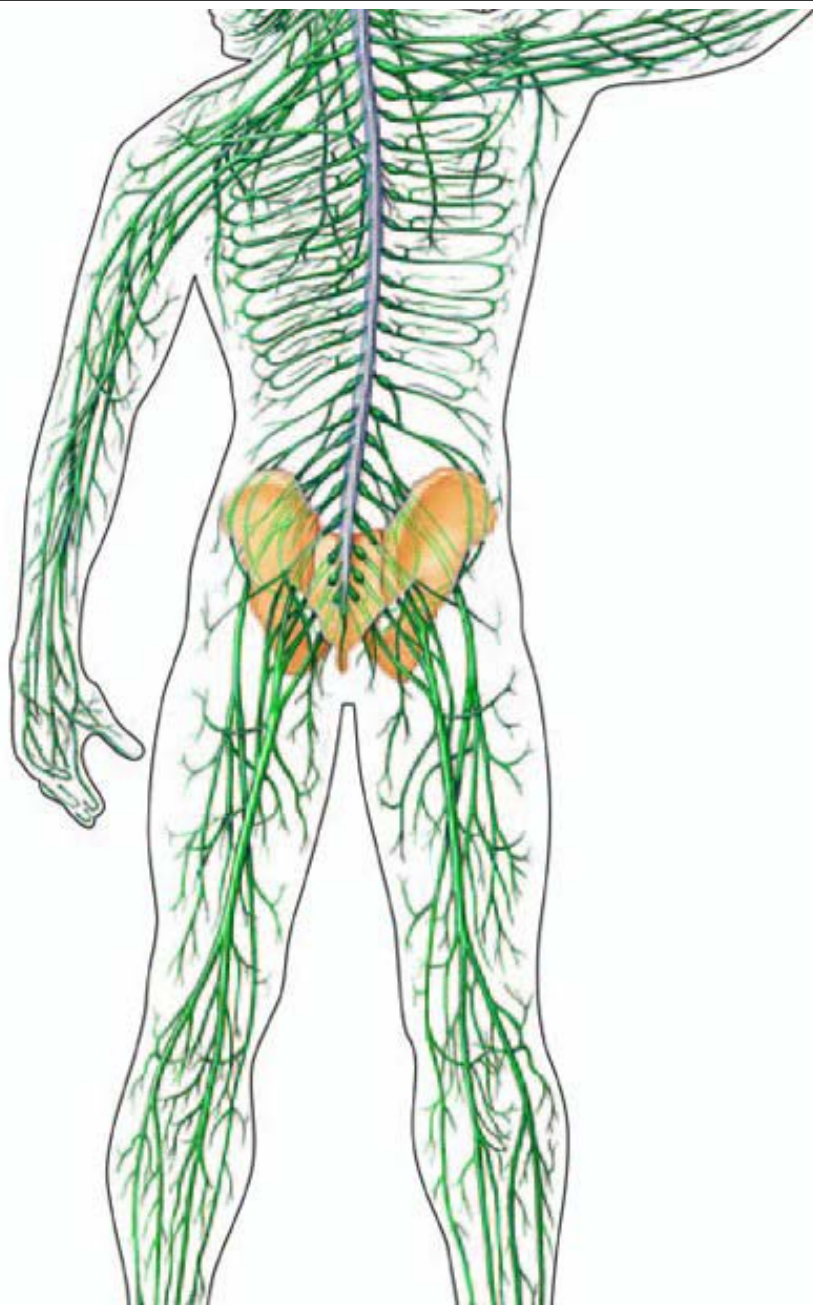
A person's ability to
drive may be given by
the State of Texas and
taken away by the
State of Texas



Alcohol is a central nervous system depressant which impedes the brain's ability to function by slowing down the body's reactions.

Studies show that alcohol can cause permanent damage to developing brains. The human brain continues to develop until the age of 25.

Alcohol and car crashes are the leading cause of preventable death amongst teenagers.



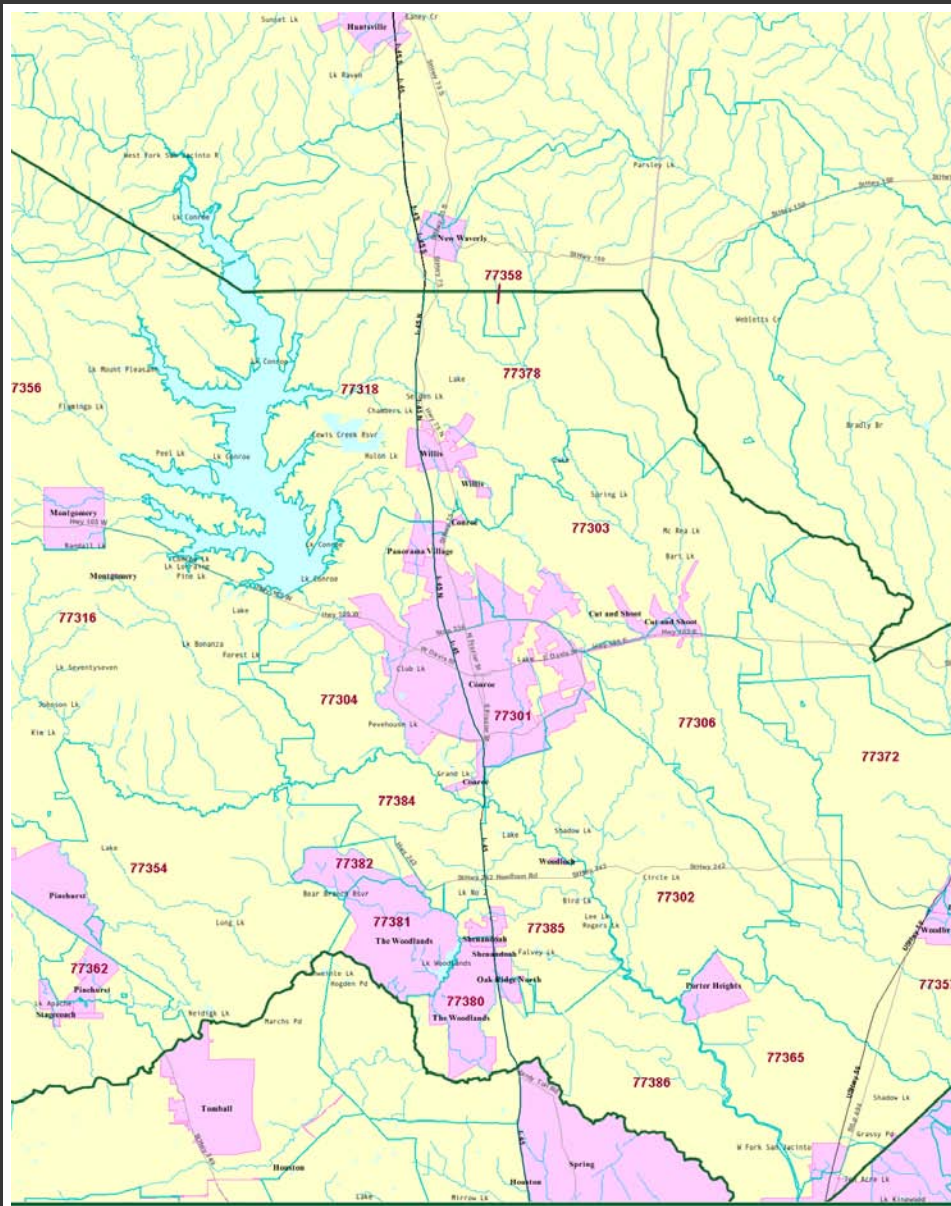
Alcohol in small amounts affects the fine motor muscles of the body: eye movements, tongue, fingertips, etc.

In larger amounts, alcohol affects the gross motor muscles involving walking, balance, etc.

In very high doses, alcohol causes stupor and complete lack of control of the body.

As a person sobers, the body recovers in the opposite direction.

A person who is slightly impaired is about 5 times more likely to be involved in a crash. A person who is highly intoxicated is 33 times more likely to be in a crash.



Montgomery County Zip Code Map

ZipFocus.com is the premier provider for Houston community and neighborhood demographic data. We provide demographic analysis reports based on a variety of sources, broken down to the zip code and neighborhood levels. Check out our information reports and custom services at www.zipfocus.com.

City and place definitions are based on 2010.

DWI type and driving crimes are the most frequently committed crimes in this county for both felonies and misdemeanors.

About 30% of all misdemeanors cases are DWIs. About 25% of all felonies are DWIs.

Of all violent crimes, a person is three times more likely to be killed by a motor vehicle than all other weapons combined.

About 50% of all misdemeanor trials are DWI cases.



Tools To Combat DWI and Fatalities

Breath Alcohol Testing (BAT) Mobile Unit
Total Station Crime Scene Surveying Instrument
Hawkeye Infrared Cameras
Portable Breath Testing Instruments
No Refusal Holidays are high visibility events
Training for police and prosecutors
District Attorney Response Teams
Etc.



The District Attorney's Office has taken a pro-active approach to vehicular crimes by working with police and judges in safety initiatives on the roads and on the lakes. In addition to working with law enforcement, the office has become more involved in the courts by training prosecutors and stressing the importance of fair but swift justice.



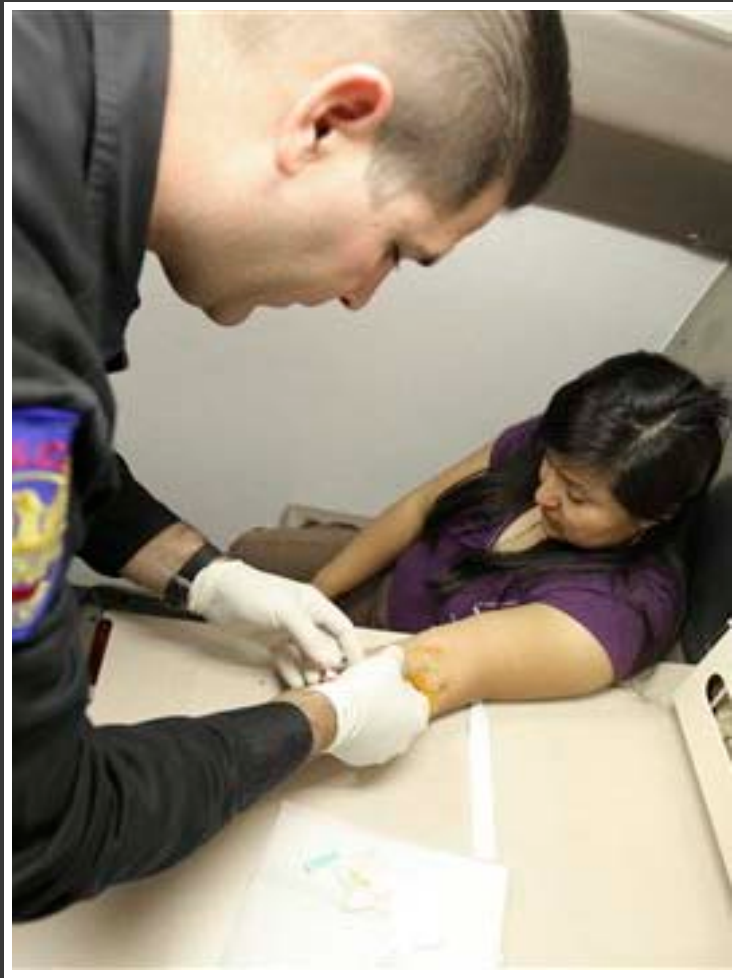
Ignition Interlock Device:

- Mandatory for anybody under 21 convicted of any DWI type offense
- Mandatory for anybody charged with Intoxication Assault or Intoxication Manslaughter
- Cost: about \$100 a month



DRIVER'S LICENSE SUSPENSIONS

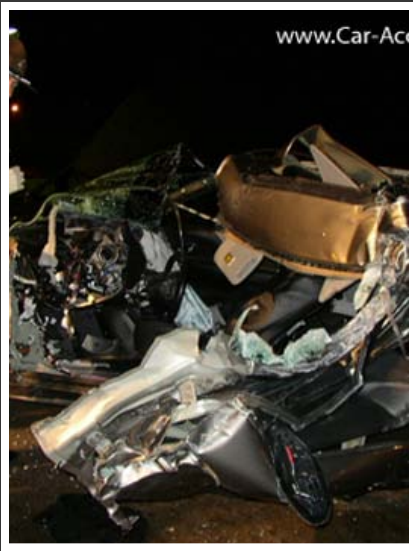
Habitual Traffic Violations, Violating License Restrictions (2 or more times), DWI via alcohol or TABC violations or drug possession, refusing breath sample, failing breath sample, cancelled insurance, car crash without paying for damages, minors purchasing or possessing alcohol, child in need of supervision, juvenile graffiti, etc.



Search Warrants are being used in DWI cases in this county.



A police officer may force a sample of blood in most serious DWI type cases



Impaired Driving Penalties

Class C Misdemeanor: Minor in Possession, Minor With Any Detectable Amount

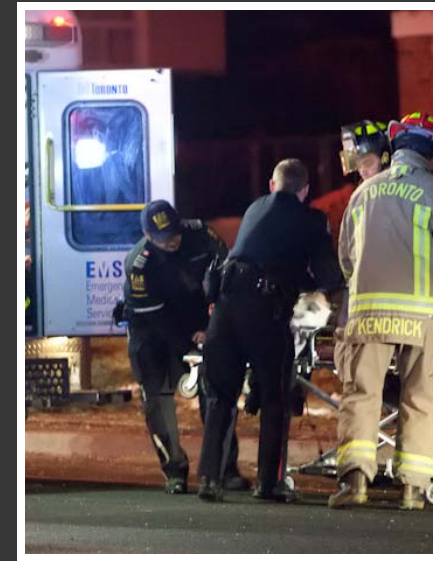
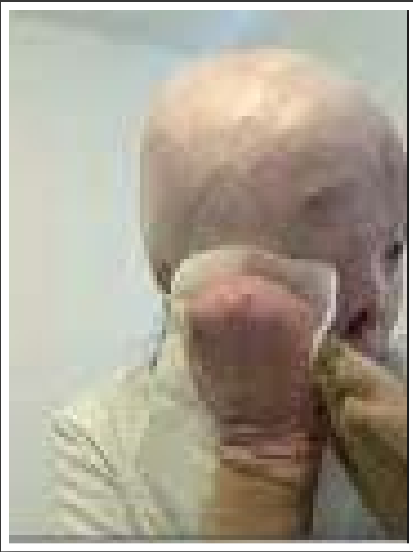
Class B Misdemeanor: Driving While Intoxicated

State Jail Felony: Driving While Intoxicated With Child Passenger

Third Degree Felony: Intoxication Assault

Second Degree Felony: Intoxication Manslaughter

Deadly Weapon: Anything through its manner of use that is capable of....



Reckless Driving Penalties

Class C Misdemeanor: Speeding, Running Red Light, etc.

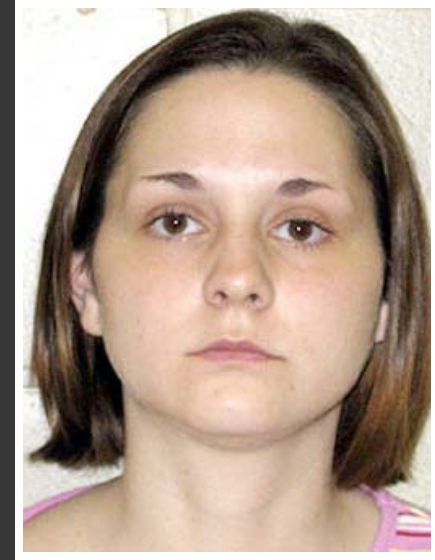
Class B Misdemeanor: Reckless Driving

State Jail Felony: Evading in a Motor Vehicle

Third Degree Felony: Racing with Bodily Injury, Negligent Homicide

Second Degree Felony: Racing or Evading with Serious Bodily Injury or Death,
Manslaughter

Serious Bodily Injury: Broken bone, permanent disfigurement, etc....



You Can Go To Prison And Lives Are At Stake!

The average sentence for offenders, including youthful offenders, who kill others because of reckless or impaired driving is 12 years in prison with the first chance of parole in 6 years.

What does that look like on a resume?

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<http://www.mctxdao.org/>