

HIGH MEANS DUI STATE LAWS SUMMARY



ALASKA (2014)

- Driving High on Marijuana is a DUI even though marijuana use is legal for adults in Alaska, driving while impaired is illegal and unsafe. Getting high before you drive could get you arrested for driving under the influence (DUI). This is true for driving a car or operating any motorized vehicle—including motorcycles, scooters, snow machines, and ATVs; and any boats or planes, whether motorized or not.
- Marijuana use has been shown to impair: • Reaction time • Short-term memory • Hand-eye coordination • Concentration • Perception of time and distance
- Marijuana also affects your ability to judge your own level of impairment, so even though you may think you're capable of driving, you are probably more impacted than you realize. Any amount of marijuana consumption puts you at risk of driving impaired.
- Even if marijuana is used for medical reasons, officers can arrest you based on impaired driving behaviors.
- After alcohol, THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, is the substance most commonly found in the blood of impaired drivers, fatally injured drivers, and motor vehicle crash victims.
- No matter the level of THC consumption, law enforcement officers may base DUI arrests on observed impairment.
- In Alaska First offense is 72 hours jail time, \$1,500 fine, license suspended for 90 days and an ignition interlock device (IID). Second offense is 20 days in jail, \$3,000 fine, license suspended for a minimum of one year, and an IID. Third offense is 60 to 120 days in jail, \$4,000 to \$10,000 fine, license suspended for a minimum of three years, and an IID. Plus any court costs and lawyer fees.
- Additional charges for impaired drivers include child abuse if children are present in the vehicle.
- Alaska revokes driving privileges for any individual who fails to cooperate with the chemical testing process requested by an officer during the investigation of an alcohol or drug-related DUI arrest. Any driver who refuses to take a blood test will immediately be considered a high-risk driver. Consequences include: mandatory ignition interlock for two years and level two alcohol education and therapy classes as specified by law. These penalties are administrative and are applied regardless of a criminal conviction.
- Like any other substance, marijuana impaired infractions result in criminal fines and penalties, as well as points against your license. The penalties are the same regardless of the substance or combination of substances. However, when combining substances, there is a greater degree of impairment. This significantly increases the chances of crashes, penalties and charges.