

## **A Message from the Twelfth Judicial Circuit Solicitor**

Driving Under the Influence has become a major problem in South Carolina. We must be prepared to reduce recidivism and help those who are true first time offenders, in order for them to not become repeat offenders.

Our Office is dedicated to educating these true first time offenders on the dangers of Driving Under the Influence, while allowing them to be productive citizens in our community.

If you qualify for our First Time Offender DUI Program, you are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity and contact our office today.

E.L. Clements, III  
Solicitor

## **Florence and Marion Counties**

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# **First Time Offender DUI Program**



## **Solicitor's Diversion Programs**

State of South Carolina  
Twelfth Judicial Circuit

E.L. Clements, III, Solicitor  
Courtney Tarbell, DUI Court  
Coordinator

## **What is the First Time Offender DUI Program?**

The First Time Offender DUI Program is on average a six-month, first line intervention program which provides education and accountability for the (true) first time DUI offender. Our program provides DUI 1<sup>st</sup> offenders with the supervision and treatment services needed to eliminate their alcohol/drug use in an effort to reduce the number of DUIs, thus protecting the life and property of our law abiding citizens while allowing the offender to be a productive citizen.

### **Eligibility**

- At least 17 years of age.
- Must have a pending DUI 1<sup>st</sup> in Florence County or Marion County.
- No record of convictions for violent or sexual offenses and no evidence of a pattern of violent behavior; not in possession of a firearm during the current or any previous offense.
- No felony charges or DUIs pending in any other jurisdiction.
- No past DUIs that were pled down or dismissed.
- Cases involving a victim will be screened accordingly to protect the victim's rights.
- Voluntary participation.
- Pay a \$100.00 nonrefundable application fee.

### **Requirements**

- Pay a \$750.00 nonrefundable entry fee upon acceptance into the program.
- Attend 6 (six) Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings (AA).
- Complete 40 hours of Community Service.
- Complete a 4 hours Drug & Alcohol course.
- Attend a MADD VIP (Victim Impact Panel).
- Attend Alive at 25 and provide certificate of completion.
- Submit to and pass observed alcohol & drug tests.

### **Length of the Program**

The length of the First Time Offender DUI Program is an average of 6 (six) months.

Consistent and regular office visits will be required of the participants in order for the DUI Court Coordinator to supervise and access their compliance and progress with the program requirements.

The participant must successfully complete all the requirements and have approval by the DUI Court Coordinator in order to complete the program.

### **Criteria for Completing the First Time Offender DUI Program**

- Payment of all fees upon entering the program.
- Successfully complete all the requirements within a timely fashion.
- Successfully pass observed alcohol & drug tests.
- Approval from the DUI Court Coordinator.

Once you have completed all the requirements of the program, the Prosecutor, Arresting Officer, and Judge will be notified of your success and your DUI charge may be dismissed.

### **Additional Information**

- You will not be allowed to start the program until all nonrefundable fees are paid.
- If at any time you are not successful in completing the requirements of the program you may be terminated and sent back to court or, additional time and fees may be ordered.
- This First Time Offender DUI Program will have no effect on the South Carolina Implied Consent Law.