

What is the First Time Offender 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 1st 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 1st 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:

<u>17 years old or older:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be approved through a screening process.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pay \$750.00 nonrefundable entry fee upon acceptance into the program.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Must attend six (6) Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings (AA).➤ Complete 40 hours of Community Service.➤ Complete a 4 hours Alcohol & Drug course.➤ Complete a MADD VIP (Victim Impact Panel).➤ Attend Alive at 25 and provide certificate of completion.➤ Submit to and pass observed drug & alcohol tests.➤ Consistent and regular office visits with the DUI Court Coordinator.

Length of the Program:

The length of the First Time Offender DUI Program is an average of six (6) months. The participant must successfully complete all requirements and have approval from the DUI Court Coordinator.

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.
- The First Time Offender DUI Program will have no effect on the South Carolina Implied Consent Law.

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 drug & alcohol 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.

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility for this First Time Offender Program, please contact: Courtney Tarbell, DUI Court Coordinator 843-676-1214 (office)