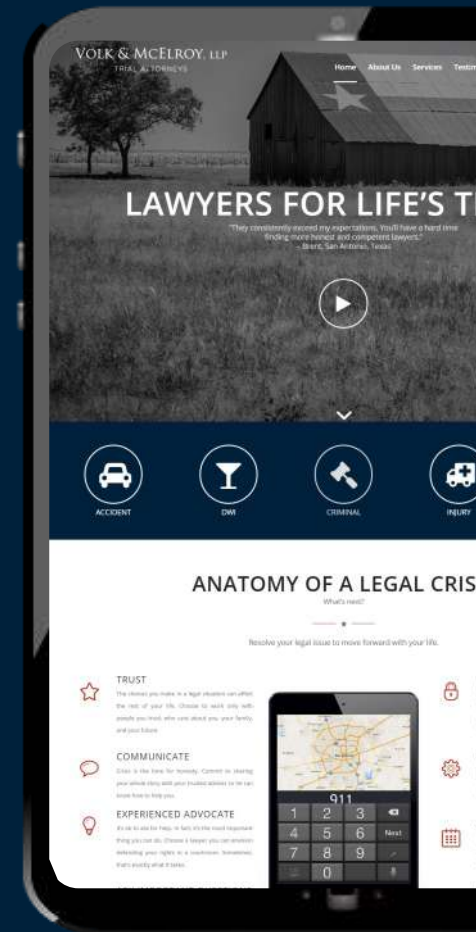


# Avoid the 5 Biggest DWI Pitfalls

Presented by: The Volk & McElroy Law Firm



# PITFALL #1:

## Waiting too long to hire an Attorney

Hiring a great attorney to guide you through the DWI process is an important first step. You want to make sure you make the correct decision, choosing someone you can trust. Though, waiting too long to hire an attorney can result in negative, unintended consequences.

If you wait more than 15 days in a DWI case, you may lose your right to challenge your driver's license suspension. This hearing usually occurs 15 days after your arrest, and most experienced DWI attorneys can assist you with this procedure. Our lawyers even include representation for this ALR hearing within our fee structure.

Make sure you hire an attorney who has DWI experience. This involves trying complex cases involving highly technical scientific evidence. Find out how many cases your potential attorney has tried and ask him/her to explain the scientific evidence issues to you.



To Get Started on Your Free Case Evaluation  
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# PITFALL #2:

## Not taking your DWI seriously

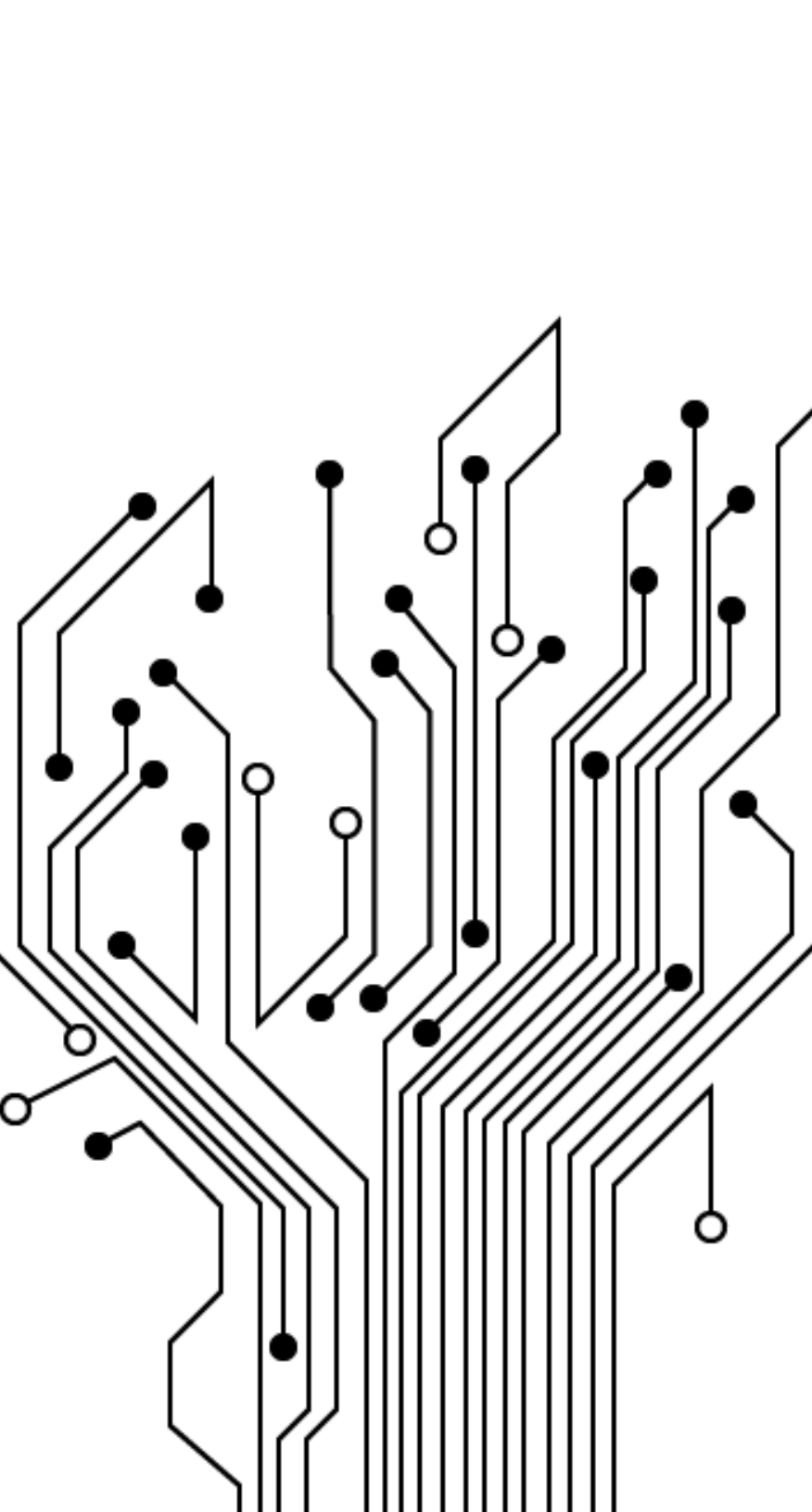
DWI is a serious charge that can affect you for the rest of your life if you are convicted. The Texas Department of Public Safety will maintain this record and track your license indefinitely. A DWI can also be a costly offense. The insurance charges, court costs, fees, fines, courses, interlock costs, etc. can easily amount to many thousands of dollars.

If you don't act quickly after being arrested, you could also risk losing your license. DWI defendants face possible probation, fines, or incarceration. You'll want an experienced attorney who spends a considerable amount of time trying DWI cases on your side.

When you work with our law firm, we help you navigate the court procedure, your insurance, and all requirements of the court. We'll make sure you know the status of your case throughout the entire process. What's more, we'll make sure your questions are answered and you feel confident when appearing before the court.

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# PITFALL #3:

## Not Hiring an Attorney

Criminal law is often complex and difficult for a non-lawyer to navigate. Choosing to hire an attorney is always your choice. We recommend you interview prospective attorneys and choose the one you trust, who you feel confident will keep your best interests at heart.

Your lawyer should not just be competent, he/she should be experienced in DWI law and trying DWI cases. You must raise the proper defenses at the proper time or else you may lose them. Remember that choosing an attorney solely based on fees may not be the best strategy for your future. You'll want to ensure that your attorney commits the proper amount of time, energy, and resources to your case. Additionally, choose an attorney who is responsive and answers your questions in a timely manner. There is nothing more frightening than having legal troubles, and not having your trusted attorney available.

When you hire our law office, we abide by our 24 hour rule, responding to any and all inquiries within 24 hours, and most times much sooner than that. Many defendants also make the mistake of assuming they will lose their case no matter what they do. This is usually not the case. For instance, our law office has won several cases that did not look promising from the start. There are many factors that affect a DWI case and many complex scientific facts that can be challenged.



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# PITFALL #4:

## Failing to Request an ALR Hearing to Challenge your License Suspension within 15 days

Not requesting an ALR hearing within 15 days to challenge the suspension of your license can be a big mistake. It can mean losing your license and your way of life. Losing your license makes it difficult for you to maintain your household responsibilities and make it to work on time. There are specific rules that determine the window in which this hearing can be requested.

Also, you'll want to make sure that your attorney has extensive experience appearing at ALR hearings - many of the facts and issues are similar from case to case and experience can help your attorney anticipate problems before they arise. Issuing a subpoena for the officer can also be an important consideration during these hearings. The officer's possible failure to appear can mean the reinstatement of your license.



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# PITFALL #5:

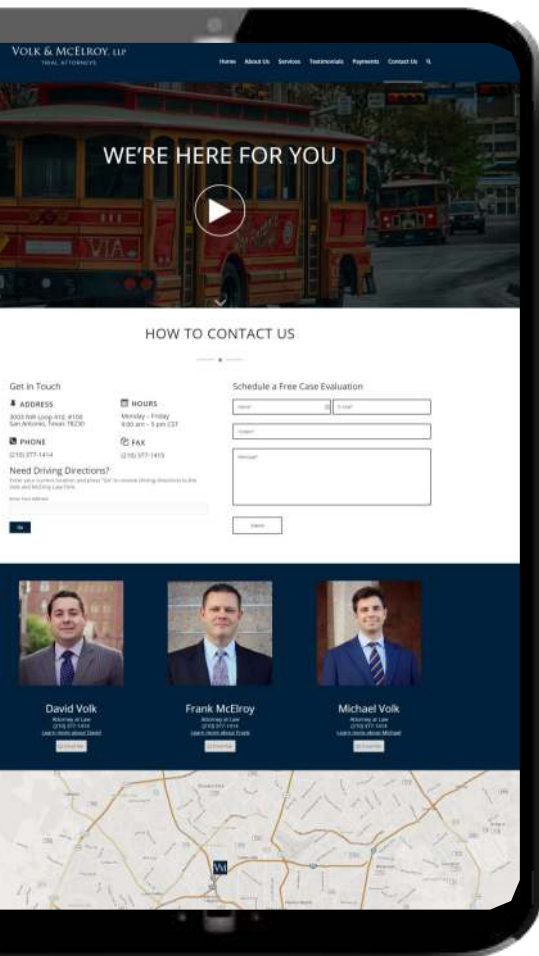
## Driving With a Suspended License

You are not permitted to drive once your license has been suspended. Driving anyway can be a serious criminal offense. You can face serious consequences for ignoring this suspension. Under certain circumstances, your attorney may petition the court for an occupational license. If this is granted, the judge may give you permission to drive for work or personal reasons. Driving before this license is granted can be a costly mistake. Make sure to consult your attorney before driving after an arrest.



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