
Alaska District Court

Information for Those Convicted of Minor Consuming or Possessing Alcohol (MCA)

To those convicted of minor consuming or possessing alcohol and their parents or guardians --

Keep this pamphlet. It contains important information about your court case.

Note: This pamphlet reflects Alaska laws in effect in 2011. In 2016, the penalty for underage drinking was reduced from a misdemeanor to a violation, and this publication was rendered defunct.

Understanding your sentence

You have been given a judgment form which lists everything that the judge has ordered you to do. Among the possible parts of your sentence are: a fine; surcharges; community work service; alcohol education; alcohol treatment; revocation of your driver's license. If you have been convicted of a third MCA, you may also have to serve jail time.

You must complete all parts of your sentence!

Probation

More than likely, you were placed on probation for a period of time. If you do not complete all parts of your sentence as ordered, you may be arrested and the judge may impose some or all of any suspended portions of your sentence. Also, your probation includes a requirement that you not drink alcohol or use any prescription drugs or other controlled substances without a valid prescription. If you violate this condition of your probation, in addition to facing a possible new MCA charge, the judge may revoke your probation and impose some or all of any suspended portions of your original sentence.

Reinstating your driver's license

If your driver's license has been revoked, you must provide proof to DMV that you have completed any alcohol counseling or education program that was ordered, before your license will be reinstated. You can read more about what you need to do to reinstate your license in "Driver's License Reinstatements," Form CR-740, which is available in the Clerk of Court's office or contact the DMV at the address below:

State of Alaska
Division of Motor Vehicles
1300 W Benson Blvd., Ste. 100
Anchorage AK 99503
Tel: 907-269-3770
Fax: 907-269-3774
doa.dmv.adl@alaska.gov
www.doa.alaska.gov/dmv

Contact information for alcohol programs and community work service

You must report in person to the programs ordered in your sentence. If you don't, you may be arrested and a judge may impose the suspended part of your sentence. Here are addresses for the programs in Anchorage:

JASAP **(Juvenile Alcohol Safety Action Program)**

VOA (Volunteers of America Alaska)

1675 C St., Suite. 201
Anchorage, AK 99501
Tel: (907) 279-9609
Fax: (907) 279-9694
www.voaak.org

Alaska Native Justice Center
3600 San Jeronimo Dr.,
Suite 264
or Anchorage, AK 99508
Tel: (907) 793-3554
Fax: (907) 793-3570
www.anjc.org

ASAP (Alcohol Safety Action Program) -- Misdemeanor Services

Boney Courthouse basement
303 K St.
Anchorage, AK 99501
Tel: 907-264-0735
Fax: 907-264-0786

Community Work Service

535 E. 9th Avenue
(inside the cemetery)
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907-343-4057).

State of Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice

240 Main St., Ste. 701
P.O. Box 110635
Juneau, AK 99811-0635
Tel: 907-465-2212
Fax: 907-465-2333
Hss.djj@alaska.gov
www.hhs.state.ak.us/DJJ

Paying fines, surcharges, and any other costs

You must pay any fine, surcharges or other costs by the due date set by the judge. Depending on what the judge ordered in your case, payment may be made as follows:

Police Training Surcharge:	Pay within 10 days to Clerk of Court
Fine:	Pay by due date to Clerk of Court
Cost of Appointed Counsel:	Pay immediately at Attorney General's Office
Initial Jail Surcharge:	Pay immediately at Attorney General's Office
Cost of Imprisonment:	Pay immediately at Attorney General's Office
Suspended Jail Surcharge:	Only due if probation is revoked and jail is ordered

Payments to the Clerk of Court may be made in person, by mail, or online to:

Clerk of Court
Alaska Court System
825 W. 4th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99501-2004
Tel: 907-264-0514
www.courtrecords.alaska.gov/ep

Payments to the Attorney General's Office may be made in person or by mail, and credit card payments can be accepted over the phone at:

Attorney General's Office
Collections Unit
1031 W. 4th Avenue, Ste. 200
Anchorage, AK 99501
Tel: 907-269-5205
1-800-580-5205 (outside of Anchorage)
lawcollectionsunit@alaska.gov
(email address for questions)

Always include your name and case number when making a payment!

If other charges have also been filed

You may have been charged with other offenses at the same time you were charged with MCA. Sometimes the judge will hear all of the charges at the same time; other times, they are handled separately. How the other charges are handled often depends on the type of charges which were filed against you and your age at the time you were charged. It is your responsibility to be sure to take care of all the charges against you!

In addition to the MCA charge for which you were just sentenced here today, the District Court typically handles any other *driving offense* with which you might have been charged, including charges such as driving under the influence, reckless driving, driving without a driver's license, or even a traffic citation - even if you are not yet eighteen. If you were charged with a driving-related offense and it was not disposed of today, you need to check your paperwork to find the date of your next court appearance on that charge.

If you were charged with a *non-driving offense* in addition to your MCA, your age at the time of the offense charged will determine which agency or court handles the charge. If you were eighteen years or older at the time of the offense and the other offense was a misdemeanor, the District Court will hear the case. If this other charge was not disposed of today, you need to check your paperwork to find the date of your next court appearance.

If you were charged with a *non-driving offense* in addition to your MCA and you were under eighteen at the time the offense was charged, the additional charge(s) will likely be handled through the Division of Juvenile Justice. In other words, the District Court will only hear the MCA charge; you will work with the Division of Juvenile Justice on the other charges.

Remember: If you were charged with any other offenses in addition to this MCA, you need to take care of ALL your charges. There may still be additional proceedings which you are required to attend. Check your paperwork and make sure you do not miss any!

Possible long-term consequences with an MCA conviction

There can be serious long-term consequences if you have been convicted of minor consuming alcohol, particularly if you have more than one conviction.

MCA convictions can endanger your ability to enter some professions or obtain certain types of jobs. For example, it may be harder to enter the military or become a teacher, pilot, or police officer, or obtain government positions.

An MCA conviction can also threaten your ability to get student loans and scholarships.

There may be other consequences not listed here.

To minimize the threat to your future opportunities, it is very important that you complete all parts of your sentence and that you follow the law to avoid being charged again.

Words, Terms, and Titles to Understand

arrest warrant, bench warrant – legal document that authorizes an arrest

defendant – a person who has been charged with an offense.

judge, magistrate – the official who heads the courtroom.

jurisdiction – the authority of a court to hear a case.

jury trial – court proceeding wherein a group of citizens weighs the evidence and decides the issues, claims, or charges in a case. In an MCA case, the jury decides whether the defendant is guilty or innocent.

license revocation – the loss of the legal right to drive.

misdemeanor – a crime under state law, with jail time of one year or less.

prosecutor – the attorney who represents the state in criminal cases and presents the case against a defendant.

PTRP/PTR – petition to revoke probation.

public defender – an attorney employed by the state to represent defendants who cannot afford to pay for an attorney on their own.

SIS – suspended imposition of sentence. With an SIS, instead of officially imposing a sentence, the judge places the defendant on probation. If the defendant successfully completes all the conditions of probation, the judge may “set aside” the conviction. Even if the conviction is set aside, it does not go away completely. Court records, available for public review, will show the SIS.

For more information about this publication, please call the
Alaska Court System Administration Office at
(907) 264-8240
820 West Fourth Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501