

Snohomish Law Group Addresses Legal Risks of Refusing DUI Testing in Washington State

Understanding Implied Consent and the Consequences of Refusing a Breath or Blood Test

EVERETT, WA, UNITED STATES, June 23, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Snohomish Law Group is advising drivers across Washington State about the risks of refusing a breath or blood test

“

Snohomish Law Group, led by attorney Scott Lawrence, represents individuals facing DUI and other criminal charges across Snohomish County and surrounding areas.”

Snohomish Law Group

during a DUI stop. As they explained in a [recent blog post](#), Washington’s implied consent law imposes strict penalties for test refusal, regardless of whether the driver is convicted of driving under the influence.

Under [RCW 46.20.308](#), any individual who operates a motor vehicle in Washington is considered to have given consent to chemical testing if law enforcement suspects impairment. Refusing to comply with testing can lead to administrative penalties through the Department of Licensing (DOL), and the refusal itself can be introduced as

evidence in a criminal trial.

Implied Consent and License Suspension

The law firm explains that a driver who refuses a breath or blood test may face consequential administrative consequences.

These include:

- A one-year license suspension for a first-time refusal
- A two-year suspension for a second refusal within seven years
- A three-year suspension for a third refusal

Additionally, those who refuse testing may be required to install an ignition interlock device (IID). The IID requirement is typically one year for a first refusal and five years for repeat offenses.

Refusal May Be Used as Evidence

Prosecutors in Washington are permitted to argue that a driver’s refusal indicates an awareness

of guilt. This can be presented to the jury and may influence both the trial outcome and the severity of sentencing if the individual is convicted.

When Refusal Might Be Considered Strategically

While refusal usually presents more challenges than benefits, there are specific situations where it may be used strategically as part of a legal defense.

These include:

- High blood alcohol content (BAC): If a test would show a significantly elevated BAC, the absence of test results may weaken the prosecution's case.
- Lack of probable cause: If the stop or arrest lacked legal justification, refusal may prevent the collection of additional evidence.
- Delayed warrant for a blood test: If law enforcement is unable to obtain a warrant in a timely manner, refusal could limit the state's ability to proceed.

Defense Strategies for DUI Refusal Cases

Snohomish Law Group notes that even after a refusal, viable legal defenses remain. These may include:

- Challenging the legality of the traffic stop
- Demonstrating failure by law enforcement to follow required procedures, such as properly explaining the consequences of refusal
- Identifying medical or technical issues that affected the driver's ability to comply or the reliability of testing equipment

Drivers Have Seven Days to Act

Individuals who refuse a DUI test have only seven days from the date of arrest to request a DOL hearing to contest the license suspension. Representation by a DUI attorney during this administrative process can be critical in protecting driving privileges and shaping the overall defense.

About Snohomish Law Group

Snohomish Law Group, led by attorney Scott Lawrence, represents individuals facing DUI and other criminal charges across Snohomish County and surrounding areas.

The firm provides strategic guidance for both administrative and court proceedings, with a focus on protecting clients' rights under Washington law.

Media Contact:

Snohomish Law Group

Contact: Scott Lawrence

Phone: 425-414-8170

Email: info@snohomishlawgroup.com

Website: <https://snohomishlawgroup.com>

Snohomish Law Group

Snohomish Law Group

+1 425-414-8170

[email us here](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/815350884>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2025 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.