

DWI: what happens next?

A charge is not a conviction. Your court order and driving record control your next steps.

01 TWO SEPARATE PATHS



COURT RELEASE

Bail, court dates, testing and release conditions. Work with your attorney.



DRIVING PRIVILEGES

DVS license action is separate. Posting bail does not authorize driving.

02 CONDITIONAL vs. UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE

CONDITIONAL

May include alcohol abstinence, testing, supervision or monitoring. Bail may also be required; some releases have no money bail.

UNCONDITIONAL MONEY BAIL

Rule 6 requires a money-bail alternative without other release conditions. Confirm the amount and option in your order. You must still attend court; separate orders remain enforceable.

Before changing monitoring: have your attorney confirm the lawful release option and court-authorized change. Do not remove a device or stop testing on your own. Interlock participation may affect a court monitoring order, but does not automatically cancel it.

03 COMPARE THE TOTAL COST — NOT JUST TODAY'S PAYMENT

COURT ALCOHOL MONITOR	Daily charge × days, plus setup/testing/removal fees. Ask about ability-to-pay relief.
BAIL BOND	Premium at the surety's approved, filed rate; generally nonrefundable once posted. Ask about fees, collateral and payment terms.
CASH BAIL	Deposit the court-required cash amount. Refund depends on the court's order, deductions and any forfeiture.

ILLUSTRATION ONLY — NOT A QUOTE OR A RELEASE OFFER

Monitor at \$15/day: 30 days \$450 • 60 days \$900 • 90 days \$1,350
\$12,000 bond at an assumed 10% filed rate: \$1,200 premium

Examples exclude other fees. Actual rates and court options vary. Compare only options your order allows. If monitoring continues, both bills apply. A signer may owe the full bond and contract costs after forfeiture; collateral can be at risk.

Your license: a practical checklist

Court release and license reinstatement are separate processes. Check both before you drive.



FIRST: SAVE YOUR NOTICES

Keep the release order, DVS notice, test paperwork and dates received. Arrange a licensed driver or other transportation until DVS authorizes you to drive.

ASK AN ATTORNEY ABOUT THE 60-DAY DEADLINE

Judicial review of a test-failure/refusal revocation generally must be requested within 60 days after receiving the notice. Filing a petition alone does not stop the revocation. Do not wait for your criminal case.

1

Check your exact DVS requirements

At drive.mn.gov, check your license status. Ask DVS which path applies to your incident date and record, including interlock eligibility or mandatory participation, holds and plate issues.

2

Apply and submit the required paperwork

Apply for the license/permit and pay its application fee. For interlock, submit the agreement, insurance proof and required forms. Complete the required assessment and recommended treatment.

3

If using interlock, follow DVS's enrollment sequence

Get DVS installation authorization and choose a certified provider. Arrange a licensed driver for the appointment. Installation alone does not authorize driving; wait for DVS license/status approval.

4

Stay compliant, then complete reinstatement

Follow driving restrictions, testing and service requirements. Complete the program and pay required amounts. Wait for DVS full-reinstatement/removal authorization before ending interlock.

BUDGET FOR LICENSE COSTS, TOO

DWI reinstatement fee/surcharge: generally \$680 per qualifying revocation, plus application/other fees. Eligible interlock participants may defer the fee/surcharge for a restricted license; full payment is required for full reinstatement.

Interlock is different from a court alcohol monitor. Get prices for installation, monthly service, calibration, lockouts and removal. Ask DVS about reduced service fees. Bail does not cover these costs or restore a license.

MY NEXT ACTIONS

Court date: _____ Attorney: _____ DVS task/date: _____

General information, not legal advice, an offer of credit, a quote or a guarantee of release, savings or reinstatement. Ask your attorney about your order and DVS about your record.

Official resources: drive.mn.gov • dps.mn.gov/interlock • DVS: 651-296-2948.

Sources: Minn. R. Crim. P. 6.02; Minn. Stat. §§ 169A.44, 169A.53, 171.29, 171.306, 60M.02; DVS IIDP Guidelines (7/1/2025); MN Judicial Branch criminal resources.