

OHIO IMPAIRED DRIVING LAW

TYPES OF OFFENSES

- **Operation under the influence of alcohol, drug of abuse or both. RC 4511.19(A)(1)(a).**
- **Operation with concentration of alcohol specified below. RC 4511.19(A)(1)(b)-(i).**

Alcohol Level	Whole Blood		Blood Serum or Plasma		Breath		Urine	
Low Test	≥ .08% < .17%	§(A)(1)(b)	≥ .096% < .204%	§(A)(1)(c)	≥ .08g < .17g	§(A)(1)(d)	≥ .11g < .238g	§(A)(1)(e)
High Test	≥ .17%	§(A)(1)(f)	≥ .204%	§(A)(1)(g)	≥ .17g	§(A)(1)(h)	≥ .238g	§(A)(1)(i)

- **Operation with concentration of controlled substance specified below. RC 4511.19(A)(1)(j)(i)-(xi).**

Controlled Substance	Urine	Whole Blood, Blood Serum or Plasma	Section No.
Amphetamine	≥ 500 ng	≥ 100 ng	(A)(1)(j)(i)
Cocaine	≥ 150 ng	≥ 50 ng	(A)(1)(j)(ii)
Cocaine Metabolite	≥ 150 ng	≥ 50 ng	(A)(1)(j)(iii)
Heroin	≥ 2000 ng	≥ 50 ng	(A)(1)(j)(iv)
Heroin Metabolite (6-monoacetyl morphine)	≥ 10 ng	≥ 10 ng	(A)(1)(j)(v)
L.S.D.	≥ 25 ng	≥ 10 ng	(A)(1)(j)(vi)
Marihuana	≥ 10 ng	≥ 2 ng	(A)(1)(j)(vii)
Marihuana Metabolite and under the influence	≥ 15 ng	≥ 5 ng	(A)(1)(j)(viii)(I)
Marihuana Metabolite	≥ 35 ng	≥ 50 ng	(A)(1)(j)(viii)(II)
Methamphetamine	≥ 500 ng	≥ 100 ng	(A)(1)(j)(ix)
Phencyclidine	≥ 25 ng	≥ 10 ng	(A)(1)(j)(x)
Salvia divinorum and salvinorin A	To be specified by State Board of Pharmacy rule	To be specified by State Board of Pharmacy rule	(A)(1)(j)(xi)

- **Operation under the influence of alcohol, drug of abuse or both, with prior OVI conviction in 20 years, and with current refusal of chemical test or tests. RC 4511.19(A)(2).**
- **Operation by person under age 21 with concentration of alcohol specified below. RC 4511.19(B)(1)-(4).**

Whole Blood		Blood Serum or Plasma		Breath		Urine	
≥ .02% < .08%	§(B)(1)	≥ .03% < .096%	§(B)(2)	≥ .02g < .08g	§(B)(3)	≥ .028g < .11g	§(B)(4)

- **Having physical control while under the influence of alcohol, drug of abuse or both, or with concentration of alcohol or controlled substance equal to or greater than §(A)(1)(b)-(e) or (j) amounts. RC 4511.194(B)(1)-(3).**

ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSE SUSPENSIONS¹

Refusal of Chemical Test RC 4511.191(B)

No. of Refusal/ Offense in 10 Years	Type and Length ² of Suspension	Driving Privileges	Restricted Plates	Restricted license/ Interlock ³
1 st	Class C (1 year)	After 30 days	Optional	Optional
2 nd	Class B (2 years)	After 90 days	Optional	Optional
3 rd	Class A (3 years)	After 1 year ⁴	Optional	Optional
4 th or more	5 years	After 3 years ⁴	Optional	Optional

Failed Chemical Test⁵ RC 4511.191(C)

No. of Offense in 10 Years	Type and Length ⁶ of Suspension	Driving Privileges	Restricted Plates	Restricted license/ Interlock ³
1 st	Class E (90 days)	After 15 days	Optional	Optional
2 nd	Class C (1 year)	After 45 days	Optional	Optional
3 rd	Class B (2 years)	After 180 days ⁷	Optional	Required if alcohol- related; optional if drug.
4 th or more	Class A (3 years)	After 3 years ⁷	Optional	Required if alcohol- related; optional if drug.

¹The imposition of an ALS, or a violation of RC 4506.15(A), results in a one-year commercial driver's (CDL) license disqualification. A second anytime results in a lifetime disqualification. RC 4506.16(D). No CDL privileges may be granted on an ALS or OVI suspension. RC 4510.13(A)(4). Further, CDL operators are subject to separate offenses prohibiting lower alcohol and/or controlled substance levels while operating a commercial vehicle. RC 4506.15.

²Refusal suspension terminates upon guilty or no contest plea resulting in conviction with time served to be credited against judicial suspension. RC 4511.191(B)(2). However, a subsequent finding of not guilty does not affect the suspension. RC 4511.191(D)(1).

³A RC 4510.46 certified ignition interlock device (IID) violation, or operation of vehicle without IID, is subject to RC 4510.13(A)(8) penalties. Operation without a restricted license is subject to RC 4511.14 penalties.

⁴No privileges may be granted to offender with refusal who has had three or more test refusals within the preceding ten years. RC 4510.13(A)(3).

⁵Failed chemical test result is a concentration of alcohol or controlled substance equal to or greater than RC 4511.19(A)(1)(b)-(e) or (j) amounts. RC 4511.191(C)(1).

⁶Suspension for failing test terminates upon guilty or no contest plea resulting in conviction with time served is to be credited against judicial suspension. RC 4511.191(C)(2). Under RC 4511.191(D)(1), any subsequent finding of not guilty does not affect the suspension. But under RC 4511.197(D), where the suspension is continued upon appeal, a subsequent finding of not guilty terminates it.

⁷No privileges may be granted to offender with failed test who has had three or more convictions or guilty pleas within the preceding ten years. RC 4510.13(A)(3).

Appeal RC 4511.197

An administrative license suspension may be appealed at the initial appearance (5 day hearing), or within 30 days of the same.

The scope of appeal is limited to determining whether one or more of the following conditions have **not** been met:^{*}

1. Whether the officer had reasonable ground to believe the person was OVI, OVUAC, or in physical control in violation of statute or municipal ordinance, and whether the person was in fact placed under arrest. RC 4511.197(C)(1).
2. Whether the officer requested the person to submit to a chemical test or tests. RC 4511.197(C)(2).
3. Whether the officer informed the person of consequences of taking or refusing test or tests; or for repeat OVI offender that would be required to be sentenced under RC 4511.19(G)(1)(c),(d), or (e), that in event of test refusal officer could use whatever reasonable means were necessary to ensure the person submitted to a blood test. RC 4511.197(C)(3).
4. Whichever of the following applies:
 - a. if a test refusal suspension was imposed, whether the person refused to submit to test or tests requested by the officer, or
 - b. if a failed test suspension was imposed, whether at the time of the offense, the bodily substance tested contained a prohibited concentration of alcohol or a listed controlled substance or metabolite. RC 4511.197(C)(4).

^{*}Note, however, that BMV Form 2261 (ALS Court Disposition Notification), sets forth additional reasons for appeal not contained in RC 4511.197(C).

PENALTIES

OPERATING VEHICLE UNDER THE INFLUENCE RC 4511.19(A),(G) - 6 POINTS

<i>No. and Type of Offense</i>	<i>Degree of Offense</i>	<i>Incarceration</i>	<i>Fines</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Type and Length of Suspension</i>	<i>Driving Privileges</i>	<i>Restricted Plates and/or License/Interlock</i>	<i>Immobilization/Forfeiture</i>
1 st in 10 years [simple OVI, low test or drug]	M-1	3 days jail or DIP. Up to 6 months. <i>Must suspend jail if Δ granted UDP.</i> ¹	\$375 - \$1,075	Optional	Unclassified (1 to 3 years). ² <i>May be reduced by half w/UDP.</i> ³	After 15 days	Plates optional. License/interlock ⁴ required for unlimited privileges.	No
1 st in 10 yrs. and either: [a] high test, or [b] refusal with prior in 20 years	M-1	6 days jail or 3 days jail and DIP. Up to 6 months. <i>Must suspend jail if Δ granted UDP.</i> ¹	\$375 - \$1,075	Optional	Unclassified (1 to 3 years). ² <i>May be reduced by half w/UDP.</i> ³	After 15 days	Plates required. License/interlock ⁴ required for unlimited privileges.	No
2 nd in 10 years [simple OVI, low test or drug]	M-1	10 days jail or 5 days jail and 18 days HAEM and/or CAM. ⁵ Up to 6 months.	\$525 - \$1,625	Alcohol/drug assessment, recommended treatment mandatory	Unclassified (1 to 7 years)	After 45 days	Plates optional. License/interlock ⁴ required if alcohol-related, optional if drug.	Immobilize 90 days if registered to Δ. ^{6,7}
2 nd in 10 years and either: [a] high test, or [b] refusal with prior in 20 years	M-1	20 days jail or 10 days jail and 36 days HAEM and/or CAM. ⁵ Up to 6 months.	\$525 - \$1,625	Alcohol/drug assessment, recommended treatment mandatory	Unclassified (1 to 7 years)	After 45 days	Plates required for high-test/optional for refusal. License/interlock ⁴ required if alcohol-related, optional if drug.	Immobilize 90 days if registered to Δ. ^{6,7}
3 rd in 10 years [simple OVI, low test or drug]	Unclassified misdemeanor	30 days jail or 15 days jail and 55 days HAEM and/or CAM. ⁵ Up to 1 year.	\$850 - \$2,750	Alcohol/drug Addiction program mandatory	Unclassified (2 to 12 years) [minimum may be reduced to 1 year]	After 180 days ⁸	Plates required. License/interlock ⁴ required if alcohol-related, optional if drug.	Forfeit if registered to Δ. ⁹
3 rd in 10 years and either: [a] high test, or [b] refusal with prior in 20 years	Unclassified misdemeanor	60 days jail or 30 days jail and 110 days HAEM and/or CAM. ⁵ Up to 1 year.	\$850 - \$2,750	Alcohol/drug addiction program mandatory	Unclassified (2 to 12 years) [minimum may be reduced to 1 year]	After 180 days ⁸	Plates required. License/interlock ⁴ required if alcohol-related, optional if drug.	Forfeit if registered to Δ. ⁹

Either: [a] 4 th or 5 th in 10 years, or [b] 6 th in 20 years [simple OVI, low test or drug]	F-4	60 days local incarceration , up to 1 year; or 60 days prison , with option of additional 6 to 30 months. ¹⁰	\$1,350 - \$10,500	Alcohol/drug addiction program mandatory	Class 2 (3 years to life)	After 3 years ⁸	Plates required. License/interlock ⁴ required if alcohol-related, optional if drug.	Forfeit if registered to Δ. ⁹
Either: [a] 4 th or 5 th in 10 years, or [b] 6 th in 20 years and high test or refusal	F-4	120 days local incarceration , up to 1 year; or 120 days prison , with option of additional 6 to 30 months. ¹⁰	\$1,350 - \$10,500	Alcohol/drug addiction program mandatory	Class 2 (3 years to life)	After 3 years ⁸	Plates required. License/interlock ⁴ required if alcohol-related, optional if drug.	Forfeit if registered to Δ. ⁹
Either: 2 nd felony lifetime [simple OVI, low test or drug]	F-3	60 days prison . ^{10, 11} Up to 36 months.	\$1,350 - \$10,500	Alcohol/drug addiction program mandatory	Class 2 (3 years to life)	After 3 years ⁸	Plates required. License/interlock ⁴ required if alcohol-related, optional if drug.	Forfeit if registered to Δ. ⁹
Either: 2 nd felony lifetime, and : [a] high test, or [b] refusal	F-3	120 days prison . ^{10, 11} Up to 36 months.	\$1,350 - \$10,500	Alcohol/drug addiction program mandatory	Class 2 (3 years to life)	After 3 years ⁸	Plates required. License/interlock ⁴ required if alcohol-related, optional if drug.	Forfeit if registered to Δ. ⁹
1 st or 2 nd felony lifetime with RC 2941.1413 specification	F-4 (1 st felony) F-3 (2 nd felony)	1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 years prison to be served prior and consecutive to any F-4 or F-3 penalties as set forth in boxes above and which may be imposed.	\$1,350 - \$10,500	Alcohol/drug addiction program mandatory	Class 2 (3 years to life)	After 3 years ⁸	Plates required. License/interlock ⁴ required if alcohol-related, optional if drug.	Forfeit if registered to Δ. ⁹

¹ If defendant requests *and* court grants order of “unlimited driving privileges” with certified ignition interlock device (IID), it *must* suspend any jail term imposed. But the term must be served if court order is violated during suspension period. RC 4510.022(C)(2)(c); RC 4519.11(G)(1)(a).

² OVI penalty section providing minimum suspension of *one-year* conflicts with RC 4510.13(A)(2) stating that the first *six months* of suspension may not be suspended.

³ Court *may* reduce up to one-half of license suspension period. RC 4510.022(C)(2)(b).

⁴ RC 4510.14 penalties apply if Δ fails to obtain restricted license. RC 4510.022(D)(2). Penalties for violation of ignition interlock device order contained in RC 4510.022(E).

⁵ “HAEM” is house arrest with electronic monitoring. “CAM” is continuous alcohol monitoring. Within 60 days, court must issue finding of lack of jail space. RC 4511.19(G)(3).

⁶ Court may terminate immobilization if privileges granted. Upon good cause showing that Δ violated any condition, immobilization may be reinstated. RC 4510.13(A)(5)(e)(ii).

⁷ Waiver may be granted for “family or household member” if completely dependent on vehicle and immobilization would be undue hardship. RC 4503.235.

⁸ No privileges may be granted on suspension imposed on offender who has had three or more convictions or guilty pleas within the preceding ten years. RC 4510.13(A)(3).

⁹ If vehicle forfeiture is required and title is assigned/transferred, offender may be fined value of vehicle per national auto dealers’ association publications. RC 4503.234(E).

¹⁰ Under RC 2967.19, court has limited power to order early release for felony offender serving prison term imposed under RC 2929.13(G)(2).

¹¹ *State v. South* (2015), 144 Ohio St. 3d 295, held, under RC 2929.14(B)(4), maximum sentence for F-3 OVI with RC 2941.1413 specification is 36 months rather than 5 years as provided by RC 4511.19(G)(1)(e). *State v. Semencuk* (8th Dist.), 2015-Ohio-5408, app. denied, 145 Ohio St.3d 1459 (2016), applied *South* in case with no specification.

OPERATING VEHICLE AFTER UNDERAGE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION RC 4511.19(B),(H) - 4 POINTS

<i>No. of Offense</i>	<i>Degree of Offense</i>	<i>Incarceration</i>	<i>Fines</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>License Suspension</i>	<i>Driving Privileges</i>	<i>Restricted License/Interlock</i>	<i>Immobilization/Forfeiture</i>
1 st in 1 year	M-4	0-30 days jail. <i>Must suspend jail if Δ granted UDP.</i> ¹	\$0-\$250	Optional	Class 6 (90 days to 2 years). <i>May be reduced by half w/UDP.</i> ³	After 60 days	License/interlock ⁴ required for unlimited privileges	No
2 nd or more in 1 year	M-3	0-60 days jail	\$0-\$500	Optional	Class 4 (1 to 5 years)	After 60 days	Optional	No

PHYSICAL CONTROL WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE RC 4511.194 - 0 POINTS

<i>No. of Offense</i>	<i>Degree of Offense</i>	<i>Incarceration</i>	<i>Fines</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>License Suspension</i>	<i>Driving Privileges</i>	<i>Restricted License/Interlock</i>	<i>Immobilization/Forfeiture</i>
Any	M-1	0-180 days jail	\$0 - \$1,000	Optional	Class 7 optional (Up to 1 year)	No “hard-time”	Optional	No

Judge Jennifer P. Weiler, Garfield Heights Municipal Court

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