



THE NUMBER ONE KILLER

The number one killer of teenagers is driving under the influence. More than 4,000 teens are killed and another 110,000 seriously injured each year in car crashes involving alcohol. Not all have been drinking, but some are passengers or innocent targets of people who drink and drive. These statistics mean that from a high school of 475 students, two are likely to be killed or injured in drunk driving crashes. One could be your best friend. One could be you.

ZERO TOLERANCE FOR MINORS

In Texas a "minor" is someone under 21 years of age. Generally speaking, a minor may not purchase, attempt to purchase, consume, or even possess an alcoholic beverage.

Since a minor should not even possess an alcoholic beverage, the 1997 Texas Legislature adopted Senate Bill 35, which established **ZERO TOLERANCE** for minors who commit offenses under the non-driving alcohol-related laws as well as for minors who drive under the influence.

ZERO TOLERANCE means just that. Even if a minor is not intoxicated as defined under the DWI statute, if the minor has ANY detectable amount of alcohol in his system while he or she is operating a motor vehicle in a public place, as far as the law is concerned, the minor driver has committed the criminal offense of **Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol by a Minor (DUI by a Minor)**.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL BY A MINOR (DUI BY A MINOR)

Any Offense DUI by a Minor (10 years of age or older but less than 17) ("Delinquent Conduct" under the Family Code) - Punishable by a fine up to \$500.00, not less than 40 nor more than 60 hours of community service, and the minor's driver license may be suspended (or driving privilege denied).

1st Offense DUI by a Minor (17 years of age or older but less than 21) (Class C misdemeanor) - Punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00, not less than 20 nor more than 40 hours of community service. Attendance in an Alcohol Awareness Course is required and, if the minor is under 18, the parent may be required to attend the course. The minor's driver license will be suspended for 120 days.

2nd Offense DUI by a Minor (17 years of age or older but less than 21) (Class C misdemeanor) - Punishable by a fine of up to \$500.00, not less than 40 nor more than 60 hours of community service. The Alcohol Awareness Course may be required.

3rd Offense DUI by a Minor (17 years of age or older but less than 21) (Class B misdemeanor) - Punishable by a fine not less than \$500.00 or more than \$2,000.00, not less than 40 nor more than 60 hours of community service, and/or confinement in jail not to exceed 180 days.

The court may not give deferred disposition on the third offense of DUI by a minor.