

Most people think that heavy drinkers are the only ones who get charged with driving under the influence (DUI), but even if you are a low-level social drinker you could still be at risk for drunk driving!

The list below covers the types of people and the common events they go to that create the highest risk of getting DUI charges. To help reduce your chance of ever getting a DUI, check out this list below to learn how to avoid a drunk driving charge in the future:



1. THE COLLEGE STUDENT

Most college campuses are filled with lots of parties which often include unlimited amounts of alcohol. It's no wonder young adults between the ages of 21–24 have the highest rate of alcohol-impaired crashes that lead to death. To avoid a DUI as a college student, learning how to limit binge drinking will be the key to surviving your college experience without any charges.



2. THE WEDDING ATTENDEE

People love attending weddings because there's a chance that you can enjoy an open bar for a few hours while celebrating with the bride and groom; But if you celebrate too hard, you could be too intoxicated to get home. Having a backup plan like a stay at a nearby hotel is always a good option. You won't have to worry about limiting your drinks if you want to enjoy the fun of the celebration.



3. THE HAPPY HOUR ENTHUSIAST

Who doesn't love a good happy hour with great food and drink specials? Happy hour is a great time to relax and socialize over drinks after a long day at work, but it's easy to fall into the trap of having too many drinks, especially when the drinks are cheap. A good alternative to driving drunk after a happy hour is to plan ahead and take a different form of transportation to work on the days you know you'll be meeting friends for drinks after work.



4. THE BEST FRIEND

You're probably wondering, how can you get a DUI by being someone's best friend? Believe it or not, most best friends are extremely loyal. This means that if you throw a party or celebration for your friend, you may be drinking just as much as the friend you are celebrating! Whether you're the best man or maid of honor during a wedding reception, or you're the one throwing a birthday party for a friend, taking time to plan the ride home will be just as important as planning the party or event for your friend.



5. THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATOR

Whether its a relationship anniversary, your wedding anniversary, or a milestone that you're celebrating for an important chapter in your life, having an evening out to celebrate a special person or time in your life is a beautiful thing; But be careful to make sure you don't overdue the drinks during the special occasion, otherwise you could get slapped with a DUI charge on the evening of your big day. Try using a ridesharing service during these evenings so that you and those you're celebrating with can enjoy the special milestone without any worries.



6. THE PEER PRESSURE VICTIM

If you are the only person who is not drinking at a big celebration when everyone else is drinking, the difference in your level of excitement may be noticeable because you are not intoxicated. Party-goers will likely try to get you to take shots, or binge drink so you can "catch up" with everyone else. In situations where the culture of the party will include heavy drinking, it's better to avoid these gatherings altogether if you know you'll need to drive home after the party or event.



7. THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND PARTIER

Holiday weekends like Labor Day Weekend and the Fourth of July give many people a longer weekend which means more time to spend at parties, cookouts, or on vacation; But be aware! Police officers typically use weekends like these to conduct DUI checkpoints on highly traveled roads. Before you head to any gathering or event during a holiday weekend make sure to plan for a designated driver or arrange for a way to get to and from the event.

8. THE WINE TASTER



Enjoying a day at a winery or wine-tasting event is always fun. At these events, you are likely to have multiple glasses of wine within a short period of time which leaves room for the wine to quickly sneak up on you. The problem with going to a winery is that most wineries are off in distant locations which means that driving may be your only option. Securing the right transportation to and from the winery or wine tasting event is key if you want to let loose and fully enjoy the event.



9. THE BACHELOR/BACHELORETTE PARTY GUEST

These days most bachelors and bachelorettes put together a weekend full of events and fun shortly before their big wedding day. It's common to have drinks flowing at these parties; But if you are a guest at a bachelor or bachelorette event, don't get too carried away! Police officers often maintain a presence nearby big clubs, and popular venues to control areas where intoxicated people tend to gather.



10. THE GRADUATE

So, it's your big day! Maybe you recently graduated from college or you finally got that post-graduate degree that you've worked so hard for. Whatever you do, don't let your graduation party or celebration ruin your chances of getting a job in your line of work if you get a DUI. Since you are the person being celebrated, you get to decide when to have your big celebration. Plan it at a time and location that doesn't require you to drive so you can comfortably have as many drinks as you'd like!

Attorney Hannah Akintoye is a leading Washington, D.C. criminal defense and DUI attorney. Attorney Akintoye is dedicated to educating the community on ways to prevent you from unnecessary arrests or charges.

If you have been arrested for a DUI or any other criminal charge, call **202–403–2292** to speak with a qualified legal professional about your rights and options.



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