

Zero Tolerance Law

In Texas it is illegal for a person under 21 to operate a motor vehicle in a public place while having ANY detectable amount of alcohol in their system. On September 1, 2009, this law was expanded to include watercraft in addition to motor vehicles.

- A. The consequences for the minor on the first offense of driving under the influence of alcohol:
 - Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$500
 - Attendance at an alcohol awareness class
 - 20 to 40 hours of mandatory community service
 - 60 days driver's license suspension. The minor would not be eligible for an occupational license for the first 30 days.
- B. A second offense increases the consequences to:
 - Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$500
 - Attendance at an alcohol awareness class at the judge's discretion
 - 40 to 60 hours of mandatory community service
 - 120 days driver's license suspension. The minor would not be eligible for an occupational license for the first 90 days.
- C. A third offense is not eligible for deferred adjudication. The minor's driver's license is suspended for 180 days and an occupational license may not be obtained for the entire suspension period. If the minor is 17 years of age or older, the fine increases to \$500 to \$2,000, confinement in jail for up to 180 days, or both.