

Other important telephone numbers

Grant County Sheriff
608-723-2157

Grant County District Attorney
608-723-4237

Platteville Police Dept.
608-348-2313

Southwest Health Center
608-348-2331

Student Health Services
608-342-1891

Family Advocates Crisis Line
608-348-3838

Unified Counseling Crisis Line
1-800-362-5717

University Counseling Services
608-342-1865



ALTERNATIVES

Leave the car with the keys at home

Have a responsible designated driver

Use the Public Transport System

CALL FOR A RIDE:

Platteville Shared Ride
608-348-6767

ROAD CREW:
608-732-7437

GOOD PLAN VAN:
608-726-0126

REFUSE the ride if the DRIVER has been drinking!

**WISCONSIN'S
ABSOLUTE
SOBRIETY LAW**

**WHAT IT MEANS AND
ITS CONSEQUENCES**



**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
PLATTEVILLE**
OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY
POLICE AND PARKING

Information Provided By:

University Police
134 Brigham Hall
1 University Plaza
Platteville, WI 53818-3099
608-342-1584
FAX: 608-342-1641
Emergency: 911 or 9-911
<http://www.uwplatt.edu/police>

- **WHAT IS ABSOLUTE SOBRIETY?**

The Absolute Sobriety law is more commonly referred to as “Not A Drop”. Wisconsin law clearly defines that any person not of legal drinking age (currently 21 years of age), can not drive if s/he has consumed **ANY** alcohol. The law states:

§346.63 (2m) If a person has not attained the legal drinking age, as defined in §. 125.02 (8m), the person may not drive or operate a motor vehicle while he or she has an alcohol concentration of more than 0.0 but not more than 0.08. One penalty for violation of this subsection is suspension of a person’s operating privilege under §. 343.30 (1p)...

Simply put, if you are under the legal drinking age and drive after having even one drink of beer, wine, liquor, etc., you can be arrested.

- **WHAT HAPPENS IF I’M ARRESTED?**

Persons arrested under this law will be taken into police custody. This means they will be handcuffed, searched, and taken to the police station.

At the police station, the arrested person will be issued a citation for violating the absolute sobriety law.

The arrested driver will be read a form and then asked to submit to a test of his/her breath, blood, or urine. The choice of test is

up to the arresting officer/agency, **NOT** the person arrested.

Depending on the result of the test, additional citations may be issued for the level of alcohol in the person’s system.

Once the processing is completed, it may be necessary for a parent, legal guardian, or other sober adult to come to the police station to sign for the arrested driver.

- **DO I HAVE TO TAKE THE TEST?**

In a word...**YES**. Wisconsin law considers anyone operating a motor vehicle in the state to have given **IMPLIED CONSENT** to a chemical test for detecting drunk or drugged driving.

§343.305 (2) ...any person who drives or operates a motor vehicle upon the public highways of this state is deemed to have given consent to one or more tests of his or her breath, blood, or urine, for the purpose of determining the presence or quantity in his or her blood or breath of alcohol, controlled substances, controlled substance analogs or other drugs or any combination of alcohol, controlled substances, controlled substance analogs, and other drugs, when requested to do so by a law enforcement officer or when required to do so...

Refusing to take the requested test will result in the **revocation** of the person’s operator’s license.

Revocation is different than suspension. Generally, revocation periods are much longer than suspension periods. Once the period is up, the steps to regain valid driving status are also different. A suspension requires the driver to pay a reinstatement fee at the end of the suspension period. A revocation means the person will not only pay a fee, s/he will also have to retake all portions of the driver’s test before being allowed to drive legally in the state.

- **HOW MUCH WILL THIS COST?**

The **MINIMUM** penalty for violating this law is **\$389.50**, with a four (4) point assessment to the driver’s Wisconsin operator’s record. Violating the Absolute Sobriety law also results in a **suspension** of a person’s driving privileges in Wisconsin for at least 90 days. There are increased penalties if there is a passenger in the car who is under 16 years of age.

Expenses for a conviction for an Absolute Sobriety violation do not stop with the citation. Even if the driver is arrested for Absolute Sobriety, a citation for underage consumption may also be issued. Expenses for violating the Absolute Sobriety law may also include court and attorney’s fees, higher insurance costs, and additional fees to reinstate driving privileges.

The Grant County Fresh Start Program is **NOT** available for anyone arrested for an Absolute Sobriety violation.