



For Victims of D.U.I.

Pima County Attorney's Office Victim Services Division

Contact us Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(520) 740-5525

What is D.U.I.?

D.U.I. stands for *Driving Under the Influence*. Alcohol and other drugs impair driving ability. The term "drunk driving" is intended to incorporate all forms of impairment. Arizona requires a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 g/dl (grams per deciliter) before a driver is presumed to be legally intoxicated, but driver reaction time slows with a BAC below 0.08. Vision and depth perception become distorted, and coordination and judgment are affected. Thus, any notable impairment may be considered a D.U.I. even if there is a BAC below 0.08, which is still well above the American Medical Association recommendation of 0.05 g/dl.

Drunk/drugged driving deaths and injuries are senseless acts. They are someone's fault – they are not accidents. They could have been prevented. Drunk or drugged driving is a crime. Victims of drunken driving crashes are not hurt accidentally. The crime is the result of two choices made by a driver: (1) to use alcohol or drugs; and (2) to get behind the wheel of a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol/drugs. These choices are as dangerous to the public as using a lethal weapon and can be just as deadly.

Drunk driving is not a new problem. Thanks to the work of *Mothers Against Drunk Driving* (MADD), *Remove Intoxicated Drivers* (RID), and other grassroots victim groups, public awareness of drinking and driving as preventable crime has grown, and the number of state and federal laws against impaired driving is increasing.

If you are a survivor of a D.U.I. . . .

Whether you or a loved one is a drunk or drugged driving crash victim, you may be affected physically, emotionally, and financially. For injured victims, and family members of those killed or injured, the first task is processing what has happened. Impaired driving crashes are sudden. They give you no time to prepare. It will take a lot of time to grasp the shock and horror of the trauma. The physical and emotional suffering may seem to use up all the energy you have.

If a loved one was killed, the sudden, violent death that took his or her life probably feels unlike any other loss you have experienced. The knowledge that your body or that of a loved one was damaged or disfigured is very traumatic. You may feel vast swings in emotions. You may feel guilty for not being able to protect your loved one, even if you know it was not possible to do so. Knowing the crash could have been prevented may be one of the most painful aspects of your grief. The injustice of the death and your

involvement with the criminal justice system as a result of the crime may complicate your grief further.

Whether you are an injured victim or a surviving family member or friend, you may experience a new sense of vulnerability. You may have nightmares or flashbacks about the crash. Your eating and sleeping habits may change. You may feel depressed or hopeless and lack interest in things you once enjoyed. Even though surviving a drunk-driving crash is a terrible trauma, many survivors find that with time they can face life with new understanding and meaning.

Where can you get help?

Groups like MADD and RID were formed to support victims of drunk driving, reduce the number of deaths and injuries resulting from impaired driving crashes, and advocate for tougher legislation. You may want to call the Pima County Attorney's Victim Services Division, or Pima County's MADD chapter to speak with counselors who understand the grief that follows this kind of loss and trauma. The Pima County Attorney's Office has Victim Advocates who can provide you with information and a full range of victim support services, such as helping to guide you through the criminal justice process. Also, Victim Advocates are trained professionals who can help you find out about crime victims' rights in Arizona.

When a loved one has been injured or killed, the financial impact can be a second victimization. The costs of medical care, travel, phone bills, counseling, lost wages, and funerals can be overwhelming. Arizona has a Crime Victim Compensation program that may reimburse victims' families for certain out-of-pocket expenses, including funeral expenses, medical expenses, lost wages, and other reasonable financial needs. Arizona's Crime Victim Compensation program also covers mental health counseling for survivors of someone killed. To be eligible for compensation, the crime must be reported to the police within 72 hours and the victim and his/her family must cooperate with the criminal justice system. The Pima County Attorney's Victim Services Program can provide you with compensation applications and additional information

Important phone numbers

Emergency	911
Community Information & Referral	(800) 352-3792
S.A.M.H.C. (24-hr/mental health)	(520) 622-6000
Crime Victim Compensation	(520) 740-5525
MADD (Tucson Chapter)	(520) 322-5253
City Court Victim Services	(520) 791-4104

Tucson Police Department

TPD non-emergency	(520) 791-4444
TPD records	(520) 791-4461
Victim Notification	800-721-7937 or (520) 791-5483

Pima County Sheriff's Department records
Pre-Trial Services
Justice/Superior Court Calendar

(520) 741-4600
(520) 740-3310
(520) 740-4240



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