

**LOSING  
YOUR DRIVER'S  
LICENCE IS  
AUTOMATIC**

**GETTING IT  
BACK IS NOT**

*Most drunk drivers convicted in Nova Scotia will get their licence back...  
but only after completing the Driving While Impaired program.*

*Impaired driving is the largest criminal cause of death in Canada. It's not just dangerous, it's against the law. And the consequences are severe.*

## Driving While Impaired

Driving while impaired is a harmful and, in many cases, deadly combination. If convicted, your driver's licence is automatically suspended for at least one year – even for a first-time offence. Getting back the right to drive comes with conditions; including completing the Driving While Impaired (DWI) program.

The DWI program is provided to all persons suspended for, or convicted of, impaired driving offences, whether for drunk driving or for driving under the influence of other drugs. Participation is required by provincial law and there is a cost of both time and money. In some cases, drivers don't successfully complete the program and don't get their licences back.

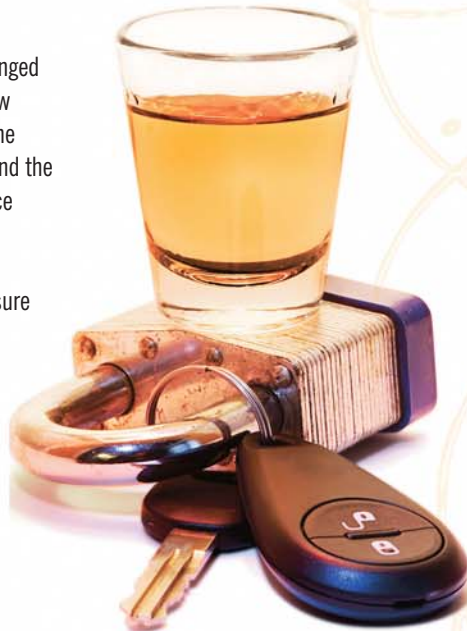
The program can take up to a year and includes:

- Individual assessment
- Group education
- Individual counselling may be required

## DWI Program Review

Since its creation in 1984, the DWI program has changed to respond to new laws, new social attitudes and new technology. Today, the two partners responsible for the program's implementation are Addictions Services and the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV), a division of Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations.

The DWI program recently underwent a review to ensure that it is meeting client needs. The findings will help Addictions Services and RMV make improvements to the program and enhance communication with participants.



## Review Highlights

### Key Strengths

Those who participated in the DWI program said that it was well-run, provided useful information and, in some cases, inspired attitude and even behaviour change towards drinking and driving. Specifically, they:

- Found the staff helpful and accessible.
- Learned new information about drinking and driving.
- Understood how driving impaired affected their ability to drive.
- Appreciated the flexibility of the session time, dates and location.

### Areas for Improvement

While the review found that the program is being delivered as designed and meets Health Canada best practice standards, there are three key areas identified for change to improve the service:

Key Areas and Findings	Recommendations	Goals for 2007
<b>Client Communications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clients unsure about what to expect from Addictions Services and the program.</li> <li>• In some cases, clients expected to get their licences back immediately following the mandatory Addictions Services group education session.</li> </ul>	Produce a brochure that outlines the DWI program, create communication protocols, clearer messages, checklists and processes regarding communication with participants.	Knowledgeable participants who are comfortable with the process and understand what is expected of them and the program.
<b>Information Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inconsistent data gathering among districts.</li> <li>• Little systematic information gathering and tracking over the long-term.</li> <li>• Limited ability to make program changes or anticipate future service needs.</li> <li>• Information cannot be cross-referenced or analyzed province-wide.</li> </ul>	Introduce a new electronic integrated information management system between Addictions Services and RMV.	Better data collection, data analysis, program tracking and outcomes monitoring.
<b>Information Sharing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because two organizations implement the program, they operate independent of each other.</li> <li>• Delays in providing the most current information because of outdated processes.</li> </ul>	Create a collaborative implementation model for the two organizations.	Timely and more complete information sharing.

# Find Out More

There is no way to sugar-coat this situation. For someone who is registered in the DWI program it can be a stressful time. But if you want your licence back and your life to return to normal, you must successfully complete the program. At Addiction Services, we want to help you get the information you need about the program and support you if access to treatment is required.

In Nova Scotia the District Health Authority in your area oversees the delivery of health services in your community. They operate the hospitals and related health and wellness programs, including Addiction Services.

For more information on the DWI program, visit the website at [www.addictionservices.ns.ca](http://www.addictionservices.ns.ca) or contact the Addiction Services office closest to you:

### *Annapolis Valley Health*

Kentville .....902-679-2392  
Middleton .....902-825-6828

### *Cape Breton District Health Authority*

Sydney .....902-563-2590

### *Capital Health*

Halifax, Dartmouth and area . .902-424-5920

### *Colchester East Hants Health Authority*

Elmsdale .....902-883-0295  
Truro .....902-893-5900

### *Cumberland Health Authority*

Amherst .....902-667-7094  
Springhill .....902-597-8647

### *Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority*

Antigonish .....902-863-5393  
Port Hawkesbury .....902-625-2363

### *Pictou County Health Authority*

New Glasgow .....902-755-7017  
Pictou .....902-485-4335

### *South Shore Health*

Lunenburg .....902-634-7325

### *South West Health*

Yarmouth .....902-742-2406

