



North Carolina DWI Checklist

Preparation Creates Confidence. Victory Favors the Prepared.



1. Take Control Early

Every DWI case begins with choices — and those choices determine outcomes.

When you're charged, the clock starts immediately. Your driver's license is **civily revoked for 30 days**, separate from the criminal charge itself.

Within **10 days**, you may be eligible for a **Pretrial Limited Driving Privilege (LDP)**. This is a legal path to get back on the road while your case is pending. Our team routinely secures these privileges to help clients maintain work, school, and family obligations during the process.

At **Stowe Law Firm**, we don't wait for opportunities — we create them.



2. Pay the Civil Revocation Fee

Before any driving privilege can be issued, you must pay a **\$100 civil revocation fee** to the clerk of court in the county where you were charged.

Once paid, keep your receipt — it's your proof that you've satisfied this legal requirement and a necessary step toward license reinstatement or privilege eligibility.

Pro Tip: Our office can help ensure your revocation fee receipt and supporting documents reach the right hands quickly — at the courthouse and DMV level.



3. Complete a Substance Abuse Assessment

In North Carolina, every DWI conviction requires a **DWI Substance Abuse Assessment** from a state-licensed provider. Completing it early can demonstrate accountability and serve as a **mitigating factor** in sentencing. Doing this may reduce penalties and strengthen your defense.

Even if your BAC was **0.15 or higher**, you can still obtain a **limited driving privilege** by installing an **ignition interlock device** on your vehicle. Preparation and compliance are key.

Pro Tip: At **Stowe Law Firm**, we can provide a recommendation to an agency that provides fully virtual assessments and sends all documentation promptly to the **court, DMV**, and our office.

Victory Favors the Prepared.

Stowe Law Firm, PLLC · 704-856-9502 · client@stowelawfirmnc.com · stowelawfirmnc.com



4. Gather Key Documents

Preparation means staying ahead. You'll need the following documents for your case and any privilege requests:

- Your **driving record** (available online from the NC DMV)
- **Proof of DWI assessment**
- **Proof of insurance** (Form DL-123)
- **Receipt for your \$100 civil revocation fee**
- Any documents provided by your attorney or the court



5. Strengthen Your Case

Mitigating factors can significantly reduce penalties and reshape sentencing. Show preparation and responsibility through:

- Early completion of your assessment or treatment
- Voluntary community service
- Consistent employment or school enrollment
- Clean record aside from the current charge

Preparation doesn't just help your attorney. It helps the court see who you are beyond a single moment.



6. Know Your Options for Driving Privileges

Depending on your record and BAC, you may qualify for:

- **Pretrial Limited Driving Privilege** after 10 days of suspension
- **Post-Conviction Limited Driving Privilege** following judgment, depending on sentencing level
- **Ignition Interlock Privilege** if your BAC was 0.15 or higher

These privileges are not automatic — they require correct timing, documentation, and compliance. That's where experience matters.

At Stowe Law Firm, we handle the legal legwork — you stay focused on moving forward.



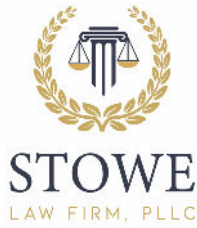
7. After Court — The Road Ahead

If convicted, your path to full license restoration begins with:

- Completing treatment or education requirements
- Paying all court costs, fines, and DMV fees
- Maintaining insurance coverage (DL-123)
- Complying with any ignition interlock orders

Victory Favors the Prepared.

Stowe Law Firm, PLLC · 704-856-9502 · client@stowelawfirmnc.com · stowelawfirmnc.com



Once all conditions are met, our team coordinates directly with the DMV to help you restore your license as quickly as possible.

8. Be Proactive — Not Reactive

The DWI process is complex, but time is your most valuable asset. Acting quickly on assessments, fees, and privileges ensures you stay legally protected and strategically positioned for court.

At **Stowe Law Firm**, we guide clients through every step — from the day of arrest to full license restoration — so nothing slips through the cracks.

Final Thoughts

A DWI charge can shake your confidence — but it's not the end of your story.

The difference between defeat and victory is preparation.

From your first call to final restoration, we manage every step with strategy, speed, and precision.

Victory Favors the Prepared.

Stowe Law Firm, PLLC · 704-856-9502 · client@stowelawfirmnc.com · stowelawfirmnc.com