



# LEGAL FIRST AID

BY BENNETT & BENNETT, LAWYERS

## DWI EDITION

“A LOVED ONE WAS JUST ARRESTED FOR DWI IN HARRIS COUNTY. WHAT DO I DO?”

1. **DON'T PANIC.**
2. **TELL YOUR LOVED ONE NOT TO PANIC.**  
IF YOU ARE IN CONTACT WITH HIM OR HER, ALSO TELL HIM OR HER NOT TO TALK TO THE POLICE, AND NOT TO TAKE ANY TESTS.
3. **GET HIM OR HER OUT OF JAIL.**  
THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO DO THIS. THE SIMPLEST IS TO USE A PROFESSIONAL BONDSMAN. WE RECOMMEND BURNS BAIL BONDS (TEL. 713.227.3400). THE OTHER IS TO POST BOND YOURSELF AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE, 49 SAN JACINTO STREET, HOUSTON. FOR A FIRST DWI, THE BAIL IS MOST LIKELY \$500. EITHER WAY, IF YOUR LOVED ONE WAS ARRESTED IN THE EVENING, EXPECT HIM OR HER TO BE RELEASED FROM JAIL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
4. **RECOVER HIS OR HER VEHICLE.**  
THE POLICE AGENCY THAT ARRESTED YOUR LOVED ONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL YOU WHERE THE VEHICLE IS BEING HELD.
5. **GET SOME REST.**  
BEING ARRESTED FOR DWI IS A VERY STRESSFUL EXPERIENCE; IT USUALLY HAPPENS AT NIGHT, SO YOU AND THE ACCUSED WILL HAVE LOST SLEEP. YOU BOTH WILL NEED TO BE ON THE BALL TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT LAWYER. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HIRE A LAWYER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, SO GET SOME SLEEP AND GO ON TO THE NEXT STEP IN THE MORNING.
6. **HIRE A LAWYER.**  
JUST AS FIRST AID IS NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE EXPERT MEDICAL ATTENTION, LEGAL FIRST AID IS NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE EXPERT LEGAL ASSISTANCE, BUT ONLY TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION UNTIL YOU CAN GET SUCH ASSISTANCE. THERE MAY BE THINGS THAT A COMPETENT LAWYER CAN DO IMMEDIATELY TO IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING THE CASE. IT IS BEST TO HIRE COMPETENT COUNSEL WITHIN A DAY OF ARREST; IT IS **ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL** TO HAVE A COMPETENT LAWYER WITHIN 14 DAYS OF ARREST.