

## Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

The Criminal Defense Practice at Unruh Turner Burke & Frees is committed to providing crucial information to the public regarding the legal consequences of driving under the influence (DUI). On this page, we will explore the potential ramifications of a DUI arrest and conviction, the availability of diversionary programs like the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD), and why securing the services of a reputable attorney is essential.

Understanding the Legal Consequences of DUI:

**Criminal Penalties:** DUI convictions in Pennsylvania lead to severe criminal penalties, including mandatory jail time. The severity of these penalties escalates based on factors such as blood alcohol content (BAC) levels or the presence of narcotics, prior convictions, and the presence of aggravating circumstances.

**License Suspension:** Certain DUI convictions trigger license suspensions, impacting an individual's ability to commute for work, education, or daily activities. Subsequent offenses may result in prolonged suspension periods or permanent revocation.

Diversions Programs and Alternatives:

**Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition (ARD):** ARD is a pre-trial diversionary program designed for first-time offenders in Pennsylvania. Successfully completing ARD can lead to the expungement of the offense from the individual's record, and the opportunity to avoid jail time.

**Drug Court:** Drug Court is a specialized program for individuals facing drug-related offenses, such as DUI. The program focuses on rehabilitation rather than punishment, offering participants the chance to undergo treatment, counseling, and other interventions to address substance abuse issues. In many cases, successful completion of drug court will result in reduced or dismissed DUI charges.

**Restrictive Probation (RPP)/Intermediate Punishment Program(IPP):** RPP/IPP is a program designed to assist individuals charged with offenses that carry a mandatory minimum jail sentence, and are in need of drug and/or alcohol treatment. Successful applicants to RPP/IPP will have often received a significantly reduced jail sentence in exchange for house arrest and drug and alcohol treatment.

For a more detailed breakdown of the diversionary programs offered in Chester County, please [click this link](#).

The Need for Legal Representation:

**Understanding Eligibility for Diversionary Programs:** Our Criminal Defense Practice has a comprehensive understanding of eligibility criteria for diversionary programs and can assess whether this diversionary program is a viable option for your case and right for you. Not every person is a fit for each program, it is important to have an

attorney explain to you the consequences of each decision you make when dealing with DUI charges before making a decision.

**Negotiating Favorable Terms:** Skilled legal representation is crucial in negotiating favorable terms with your DUI case. This may include minimizing jail time, reducing fines and advocating for your admission to a diversionary program when you were initially denied.

**Why Choose Our Firm:**

**Local Insight:** As a prominent legal presence in West Chester, our firm possesses local insight. We understand the nuances of the legal landscape and can leverage this knowledge to build a robust defense tailored to your specific circumstances.

**Proven Success Record:** Our firm has achieved favorable outcomes for clients facing DUI charges. We have successfully navigated the complexities of diversionary programs ensuring the best possible results for our clients. Our attorneys are also skilled and experienced litigators who aggressively litigate DUI cases at hearings and trial in the event you are not eligible for a diversionary program.

**Client-Centered Approach:** We prioritize clear communication and collaboration, ensuring that your concerns are addressed at every stage of the legal process. Our client-centered approach is designed to achieve the best possible outcome for your case.

Facing DUI charges in West Chester, Phoenixville or in any other part of Chester County can be overwhelming, but understanding the legal consequences of each and every option available to you can provide a clearer path to resolution. With our firm's local insight, proven success record, and client-centered approach, we stand ready to provide the legal representation you need. Contact the Criminal Defense Practice at Unruh Turner Burke & Frees today for a confidential consultation and take the first step toward safeguarding your rights and your future.