

TO: M. Whitney Olsen

FROM: Rachel Kass

DATE: June 19, 2020

SUBJECT: Comprehensive Editing Assignment

The purpose of this memo is to provide you information regarding my edits made to the Utah Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Laws document. The edits made to the original document are to increase readability and make the information within the document clearer.

The intended audience for this document is the general population of Utah. It is geared toward adults or older teenagers who are aware of and may have a light general knowledge of the legality of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

When reviewing the original document it was clear there was very little organization to it. I considered several options when deciding how to organize the edited document including:

1. Separating the document into each alcohol, drug, and tobacco sections
2. Organizing by the classification of the offense (i.e. Class A misdemeanor)
3. Organizing alphabetically by the name of the offense

There were pros and cons to each of the options I considered. I first ruled out grouping alphabetically by the name of the offense. As I delved deeper into the document, I realized that not all of the offenses have a succinct name that they could be referred to as. This would make it challenging to decide what to call the offense and then how to alphabetize it. I then discarded organizing by the classification of the offense. I realized that the audience likely wasn't primarily concerned with the classification of the offense, although it is valuable information.

The audience's primary concern would be the offense itself and the punishment for the offense. This lead me to group the document into three sections: alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. As I worked through the document I added two more sections: Breaking Down DUI's and definitions. I did this because the DUI information was very detailed and could go in a lot of directions. Additionally, a DUI could be an individual under the influence of drugs or alcohol so it could not fit under just one of the sections.

Usually, acronyms are written out the first time they are used with the acronym in parentheses directly after it; however, I thought this would be ineffective if the audience used the document as a reference. This lead me to include the second section, definitions, as a reference so common acronyms and phrases (such as DUI and BAC test) could be used throughout the document. In this way, an individual would not need to read the document front to back and could instead reference the sections valuable to them without losing any context.

On three pages in the document, I used a photo of a rock formation that is very universally connected to Utah. I wanted the document to connect personally with Utah residents and including a photo of their beautiful land seemed appropriate. The same photo, from different perspectives, was used all three times to provide consistency.


The majority of the document is organized in a table-like format. There are three columns: offense, maximum punishment, and classification. I worked to group the offenses that were similar near each other in the table. I also broke apart some offenses that were different but listed together in the original document. For example, the punishment for an individual with a BAC of .16 or higher is the same as an individual with a prior DUI conviction within the last 6 years. In the original document, they are listed together but in the edited document, I listed each as their own line to make the document less confusing and easier to use as a reference.

I used the thick colored lines to separate the different offenses. Originally I chose red, a color many Utah residents connect with as it is the main color for the University of Utah. However, as I built the document, the red was just too abrasive so I switched it to blue which was still bold but kinder on the eyes.

I wanted the edited document to be formal so I left much of the verbiage the same but did make edits to clear up some confusing sentences or phrases. I also utilized bullet points throughout the document to help list items mainly in the punishment column and the Breaking Down DUI's section.

The last major edit I made was including a table of contents. This helps make the document usable. At 10 pages, if someone knows what information they are looking for, the table of contents is a great resource to help make navigation easier.

It is my hope that these edits not only make the document more readable but also a valuable resource for the community.

A black and white photograph of a natural rock arch in a desert landscape. The arch is made of layered sandstone and is the central focus of the left side of the page. In the background, there are mountains and a valley.

# UTAH'S ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND OTHER DRUG LAWS

UNDERSTANDING THE LAWS	1
ALCOHOL	2
BREAKING DOWN DUI'S	3-6
DRUGS	7-8
TOBACCO	8
DEFINITIONS	9

# UNDERSTANDING THE LAWS

There are many laws regarding alcohol, tobacco, and drugs. It is important to educate yourself so you can be a safe and responsible neighbor, citizen, and community member.

## WHO IS UNDERAGE?

Anyone  
under 21  
years old

ALCOHOL

Anyone  
under 19  
years old

TOBACCO

Illegal for  
everyone

DRUGS

# ALCOHOL

OFFENSE	MAXIMUM PENALTY	CLASSIFICATION
Selling or supplying alcohol to a minor	1 year imprisonment and/or \$2,500 fine	Class A misdemeanor
Minor in possession	6 months imprisonment, suspension of driver's license up to 1 year, and/or \$1,000 fine	Class B misdemeanor
Not-a-drop-law	1st offense: suspension of license for 90 days 2nd offense: (within 3 years) suspension of license for 1 year	None
Unlawful transfer or use of identification card	6 months imprisonment and/or \$1,000 fine	Class B misdemeanor
Selling to or supplying for an intoxicated person	6 months imprisonment and/or \$1,000 fine	Class B misdemeanor
Purchasing alcohol while intoxicated	6 months imprisonment and/or \$1,000 fine	Class B misdemeanor
Public Intoxication	90 days imprisonment and/or \$750 fine	Class C misdemeanor
Dram Shop Liability	If injury is caused to persons or property, the individual who provided the alcohol could be liable for injuries, property, or support to any third person or their spouse, child, or parent.	

# BREAKING DOWN DUI'S

- Police officers can stop any individual they have reasonable cause to believe is under the influence of alcohol or another drug.
- In Utah, if you operate a vehicle you are consenting to receiving a blood alcohol content (BAC) test.
- BAC tests can be refused; however, the individual's driver's license will be revoked for one year and include a \$50-\$200 reinstatement fee.
- If the blood alcohol level is .08 or greater, the license will be confiscated and a DUI charge issued.
- If the officer determines an individual is impaired, their license will be confiscated and a DUI charge issued.
- Expect a 1st DUI conviction to cost at least \$10,000.
- A 2nd and 3rd DUI conviction, within 6 years of the first, results in penalties of increased severity, further alcohol and drug treatment, and driver's license suspension for a longer period.
- All penalties enhance one degree if the incident occurs within 1000 feet of a school, church, stadium, theatre, sports complex, etc.
- Once an offender has been convicted of a felony DUI offense, any subsequent DUI offense within 10 years of the original offense would also be a felony.
- Anyone convicted of a DUI, other alcohol and/or drug related driving incidents, or refusal to submit to a BAC test will be issued an Alcohol Restricted Driver license for 5 to 10 years (Class B Misdemeanor).

# BREAKING DOWN DUI'S (CONTINUED)

OFFENSE	PENALTY	CLASSIFICATION
First DUI conviction in which no one is injured	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 days to 6 months imprisonment and/or up to \$1000 fine</li> <li>• Mandatory sentence of 48 to 240 hours in jail in the drunk tank or 24-50 hours of community service</li> <li>• Mandatory assessment and participation in educational programs at a licensed alcohol rehabilitation facility</li> <li>• Suspension of driver's license for 90 days or more</li> <li>• Payment of \$100 to the victim restitution fund</li> </ul>	Class B misdemeanor
Conviction with an individual under 16 years of age in the vehicle	<p>Same penalty as first conviction offense with the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driver license suspension extended to 2 years</li> <li>• An Alcohol Restricted Driver license will be issued for 5-10 years</li> </ul>	Class A misdemeanor

# BREAKING DOWN DUI'S (CONTINUED)

OFFENSE	PENALTY	CLASSIFICATION
Conviction when driver is 21 years of age or older and driving with any under the age of 18	<p>Same penalty as first conviction offense with the following changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Driver license suspension extended to 2 years</li> <li>• An Alcohol Restricted Driver license will be issued for 5-10 years</li> </ul>	Class A misdemeanor
DUI which results in injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 1 year imprisonment</li> <li>• Fine of up to \$2,500</li> <li>• This penalty does not include any lawsuit filed by the injured party</li> </ul>	Class B misdemeanor
DUI which results in death	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 6 years in the state prison</li> <li>• Fine of up to \$5,000</li> <li>• License automatically revoked for 1 year</li> </ul>	3rd Degree Felony - automobile homicide



# BREAKING DOWN DUI'S (CONTINUED)

OFFENSE	PENALTY	CLASSIFICATION
DUI with BAC of .16 or higher	Same penalty as first conviction offense with the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Court-ordered, supervised, offender-paid probation</li></ul>	Class B misdemeanor
DUI with a prior DUI conviction in the last 6 years	Same penalty as first conviction offense with the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Court-ordered, supervised, offender-paid probation</li></ul>	Class B misdemeanor
DUI with involving a drug other than alcohol	Same penalty as first conviction offense with the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Court-ordered, supervised, offender-paid probation</li></ul>	Class B misdemeanor

# DRUGS

OFFENSE	MAXIMUM PENALTY	CLASSIFICATION
Obtaining or distributing under false pretenses	5 years imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine	3rd degree felony
Prohibited acts occurring in public or private school-related sites with minors	Punishment is one degree greater than regular maximum penalty	
Possession or sale of drug-related paraphernalia	5 years imprisonment and/or \$5,000 fine	3rd degree felony
Sale or use of inhalants to get high	6 months imprisonment and/or \$1,000 fine	misdemeanor
Manufacture or sale of imitation controlled substances	1 year imprisonment and/or \$2,500 fine	Class C misdemeanor
Possession or use of imitation controlled substances	90 days imprisonment and/or \$750 fine	misdemeanor

# DRUGS (CONTINUED)

---

It is a criminal offense for a person to surreptitiously or by means of fraud, deception, or misrepresentation to cause another person to unknowingly consume or receive the administration of any poisonous, deleterious, or controlled substance or any alcoholic beverage.

Penalties for doing so include:

- 2nd degree felony if the substance is poisonous, regardless of whether it is a controlled substance or prescription drug
- 3rd degree felony if the substance is not within the scope of the first bullet point and is a controlled substance or prescription drug
- Class A misdemeanor if the substance is a deleterious substance or an alcoholic beverage

# TOBACCO

---

It is illegal for any person under the age of 19 to buy, use, or possess any tobacco product.

It is illegal to sell or furnish any tobacco product to any person under the age of 19.

Maximum penalty: \$750 fine

# DEFINITIONS

Alcohol Restricted Driver: An individual who cannot operate or control a vehicle with any measurable amount of alcohol in the body

Dram Shop Liability: Any person who provides alcoholic beverages illegally to underage persons or who provides alcohol to someone who is apparently intoxicated or may be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI): It is illegal to drive or be in physical control of a vehicle or motorboat, even when parked, while under the influence of alcohol, any drug, or the combined influence of alcohol and any drug if impaired

Minor in Possession: It is unlawful for any person under the age of 21 years to purchase, attempt to purchase, solicit another person to purchase, possess, or consume any alcoholic beverage or product.

Not-A-Drop-Law: It is illegal for anyone under 21 years of age to operate a vehicle while there is any measurable alcohol (less than .08) in his or her body.

Public Intoxication: Drinking in a public building, park, or stadium, or to be so intoxicated that you disturb others or injure yourself or others.

