

What is an alcohol and drug assessment?

An alcohol or drug assessment is an interview between a driver and an alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) assessor. The assessor identifies the driver's alcohol/drug use. As part of the assessment, the assessor develops a driver safety plan for the driver. There were 42,674 assessments and 33,201 completions in 2007.

When is an assessment required?

Anyone convicted of operating while intoxicated (OWI) is required to contact the approved assessment facility in their county of residence within 72 hours of conviction. Anyone with multiple OWI arrests/convictions over a specified period of time is ordered by WisDOT to have an assessment within 45 days. Second and subsequent OWI convictions require completion of an assessment before eligibility for an occupational license. An individual may voluntarily obtain an assessment after an arrest.

What are driver safety plans?

Driver safety plans for alcohol/drug related driving convictions are education and/or rehabilitation programs based on findings. For example, when an assessor identifies drivers as:

- **Irresponsible Users**, they are generally sent to a Group Dynamics-Traffic Safety program
- **Irresponsible Users-Borderline**, they are generally a combination of education and short-term, outpatient counseling
- **Suspected Chemical Dependent**, they are generally sent to outpatient treatment programs
- **Chemically Dependent**, they are generally sent to inpatient or intensive outpatient treatment programs
- **Dependency in Remission**, any combination of treatment or education.

What happens after the driver completes an assessment?

The assessor submits a report to the DMV, electronically or with a paper document. The Driver Information Section in the Bureau of Driver Services screens the report to see whether:

- the assessment and driver safety plan are appropriate
- the assessor recommends the individual for a license
- the assessment mentions all OWI related offenses

The person may be eligible for a license depending on previous incidents and has one year to complete the plan.

What happens to non-compliant drivers?

All licenses are withdrawn, including occupational licenses, if a person receives another arrest for OWI while in a plan or does not:

- appear for an assessment
- comply with a driver safety plan
- pay the fee for the assessment or the driver safety plan

In 2007, the Driver Information Section processed 18,182 non-compliance cases.

For more information contact:

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