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DWI INFORMATION

The following general information is designed to assist you in the preparation of your case. There is action you can take now to mitigate your case and lessen your punishment.

_____ Contact East Coast Counseling, Inc. (752-8602) or PORT Human Services (752-2431 ext 204) to schedule an appointment for a pre-trial DWI assessment. The assessment is designed to detect whether or not you have an alcohol problem. The cost for a pre-trial assessment is \$100.00. A pre-trial DWI assessment is treated as a mitigating factor by the court. It is also a mandatory condition of any suspended sentence and must be completed before any limited driving privilege may be issued. Be sure to inform the assessor that I am your lawyer. The results of the assessment interview should be forwarded to my office.

_____ Pick up your driver's license from the Clerk of Superior Court as soon as the thirty-day revocation has expired. This office is located on the first floor of the courthouse. You will need to take \$100.00 CASH with you for this purpose. Save your receipt.

_____ Obtain a "DL-123" form (verifying that you have insurance) from your motor vehicle insurance agent. This form must be furnished to the court before any limited driving privilege can be issued. Your insurance agent can fax the completed form to my office at (252) 752-8556.

_____ If you drive for WORK-RELATED purposes outside the hours of Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM, you must document this fact to the judge. Request that your employer write a letter to the judge setting out in detail the days and hours that you *may be required to work during the next year* and bring the letter to my office at least one day before you are scheduled to appear in court.

_____ There is a \$100 application fee which must be paid to the Clerk of Court before a limited driving privilege can be issued.

_____ Make a complete list of the witnesses you wish to testify at your trial; including full name, address, telephone number. It is a good idea to have at least one witness who saw you immediately before or after your arrest who can testify that you were not impaired.

_____ Have at least two character reference letters written in your behalf by individuals who are familiar with your good character. Members of law enforcement, political organizations, religious organizations and community business leaders are particularly good individuals to ask.

DWI fines and court costs usually total approximately \$400.00. You should start planning and saving for the payment of these sum in the event that you lose your case.