

## CHAPTER 169A

## DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED

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**169A.275 MANDATORY PENALTIES; NONFELONY VIOLATIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Second offense.** (a) The court shall sentence a person who is convicted of a violation of section 169A.20 (driving while impaired) within ten years of a qualified prior impaired driving incident to either:

(1) a minimum of 30 days of incarceration, at least 48 hours of which must be served in a local correctional facility; or

(2) eight hours of community work service for each day less than 30 days that the person is ordered to serve in a local correctional facility.

Notwithstanding section 609.135 (stay of imposition or execution of sentence), the penalties in this paragraph must be executed, unless the court departs from the mandatory minimum sentence under paragraph (b) or (c).

(b) Prior to sentencing, the prosecutor may file a motion to have a defendant described in paragraph (a) sentenced without regard to the mandatory minimum sentence established by that paragraph. The motion must be accompanied by a statement on the record of the reasons for it. When presented with the prosecutor's motion and if it finds that substantial mitigating factors exist, the court shall sentence the defendant without regard to the mandatory minimum sentence established by paragraph (a).

(c) The court may, on its own motion, sentence a defendant described in paragraph (a) without regard to the mandatory minimum sentence established by that paragraph if it finds that substantial mitigating factors exist and if its sentencing departure is accompanied by a statement on the record of the reasons for it. The court also may sentence the defendant without regard to the mandatory minimum sentence established by paragraph (a) if the defendant is sentenced to probation and ordered to participate in a program established under section 169A.74 (pilot programs of intensive probation for repeat DWI offenders).

(d) When any portion of the sentence required by paragraph (a) is not executed, the court should impose a sentence that is proportional to the extent of the offender's prior criminal and moving traffic violation record. Any sentence required under paragraph (a) must include a mandatory sentence that is not subject to suspension or a stay of imposition or execution, and that includes incarceration for not less than 48 hours or at least 80 hours of community work service.

*[For text of subs 2 to 6, see M.S.2004]*

**History:** 2005 c 136 art 18 s 2

**169A.52 TEST REFUSAL OR FAILURE; LICENSE REVOCATION.**

*[For text of subs 1 and 2, see M.S.2004]*

Subd. 3. **Test refusal; license revocation.** (a) Upon certification by the peace officer that there existed probable cause to believe the person had been driving, operating, or in physical control of a motor vehicle in violation of section 169A.20 (driving while impaired), and that the person refused to submit to a test, the commissioner shall revoke the person's license or permit to drive, or nonresident

operating privilege, for a period of one year even if a test was obtained pursuant to this section after the person refused to submit to testing.

(b) Upon certification by the peace officer that there existed probable cause to believe the person had been driving, operating, or in physical control of a commercial motor vehicle with the presence of any alcohol in violation of section 169A.20 (driving while impaired), and that the person refused to submit to a test, the commissioner shall disqualify the person from operating a commercial motor vehicle and shall revoke the person's license or permit to drive or nonresident operating privilege according to the federal regulations adopted by reference in section 171.165, subdivision 2.

**Subd. 4. Test failure; license revocation.** (a) Upon certification by the peace officer that there existed probable cause to believe the person had been driving, operating, or in physical control of a motor vehicle in violation of section 169A.20 (driving while impaired) and that the person submitted to a test and the test results indicate an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more or the presence of a controlled substance listed in schedule I or II, other than marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinols, then the commissioner shall revoke the person's license or permit to drive, or nonresident operating privilege:

- (1) for a period of 90 days;
- (2) if the person is under the age of 21 years, for a period of six months;
- (3) for a person with a qualified prior impaired driving incident within the past ten years, for a period of 180 days; or
- (4) if the test results indicate an alcohol concentration of 0.20 or more, for twice the applicable period in clauses (1) to (3).

(b) On certification by the peace officer that there existed probable cause to believe the person had been driving, operating, or in physical control of a commercial motor vehicle with any presence of alcohol and that the person submitted to a test and the test results indicated an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more, the commissioner shall disqualify the person from operating a commercial motor vehicle under section 171.165 (commercial driver's license disqualification).

(c) If the test is of a person's blood or urine by a laboratory operated by the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, or authorized by the bureau to conduct the analysis of a blood or urine sample, the laboratory may directly certify to the commissioner the test results, and the peace officer shall certify to the commissioner that there existed probable cause to believe the person had been driving, operating, or in physical control of a motor vehicle in violation of section 169A.20 and that the person submitted to a test. Upon receipt of both certifications, the commissioner shall undertake the license actions described in paragraphs (a) and (b).

*[For text of subds 5 to 8, see M.S.2004]*

**History:** 2005 c 136 art 18 s 3; 1Sp2005 c 6 art 3 s 54

**NOTE:** The amendment to subdivision 4 by Laws 2005, chapter 136, article 18, section 3, is effective August 1, 2006. Laws 2005, chapter 136, article 18, section 3, the effective date.

## **169A.53 ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW OF LICENSE REVOCATION.**

*[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.2004]*

**Subd. 3. Judicial hearing; issues, order, appeal.** (a) A judicial review hearing under this section must be before a district judge in any county in the judicial district where the alleged offense occurred. The hearing is to the court and may be conducted at the same time and in the same manner as hearings upon pretrial motions in the criminal prosecution under section 169A.20 (driving while impaired), if any. The hearing must be recorded. The commissioner shall appear and be represented by the attorney general or through the prosecuting authority for the jurisdiction involved. The hearing must be held at the earliest practicable date, and in any event no later than 60 days following the filing of the petition for review. The judicial district administrator shall establish procedures to ensure efficient compliance with this subdivision. To

accomplish this, the administrator may, whenever possible, consolidate and transfer review hearings among the locations within the judicial district where terms of district court are held.

(b) The scope of the hearing is limited to the issues in clauses (1) to (10):

(1) Did the peace officer have probable cause to believe the person was driving, operating, or in physical control of a motor vehicle or commercial motor vehicle in violation of section 169A.20 (driving while impaired)?

(2) Was the person lawfully placed under arrest for violation of section 169A.20?

(3) Was the person involved in a motor vehicle accident or collision resulting in property damage, personal injury, or death?

(4) Did the person refuse to take a screening test provided for by section 169A.41 (preliminary screening test)?

(5) If the screening test was administered, did the test indicate an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more?

(6) At the time of the request for the test, did the peace officer inform the person of the person's rights and the consequences of taking or refusing the test as required by section 169A.51, subdivision 2?

(7) Did the person refuse to permit the test?

(8) If a test was taken by a person driving, operating, or in physical control of a motor vehicle, did the test results indicate at the time of testing:

(i) an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more; or

(ii) the presence of a controlled substance listed in schedule I or II, other than marijuana or tetrahydrocannabinols?

(9) If a test was taken by a person driving, operating, or in physical control of a commercial motor vehicle, did the test results indicate an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or more at the time of testing?

(10) Was the testing method used valid and reliable and were the test results accurately evaluated?

(c) It is an affirmative defense for the petitioner to prove that, at the time of the refusal, the petitioner's refusal to permit the test was based upon reasonable grounds.

(d) Certified or otherwise authenticated copies of laboratory or medical personnel reports, records, documents, licenses, and certificates are admissible as substantive evidence.

(e) The court shall order that the revocation or disqualification be either rescinded or sustained and forward the order to the commissioner. The court shall file its order within 14 days following the hearing. If the revocation or disqualification is sustained, the court shall also forward the person's driver's license or permit to the commissioner for further action by the commissioner if the license or permit is not already in the commissioner's possession.

(f) Any party aggrieved by the decision of the reviewing court may appeal the decision as provided in the Rules of Appellate Procedure.

(g) The civil hearing under this section shall not give rise to an estoppel on any issues arising from the same set of circumstances in any criminal prosecution.

**History:** 2005 c 136 art 18 s 4

## **169A.55 LICENSE REVOCATION TERMINATION; LICENSE REINSTATEMENT.**

*[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.2004]*

**Subd. 3. Reinstatement or issuance of provisional license.** The commissioner shall not issue a provisional or regular driver's license to a person whose provisional driver's license was revoked for conviction as a juvenile of a violation of section 169A.20, 169A.33, or 169A.35; a violation of a provision of sections 169A.50 to 169A.53; or a crash-related moving violation; until the person, following the violation, reaches the age of 18 and satisfactorily:

(1) completes a formal course in driving instruction approved by the commissioner of public safety;

(2) completes an additional three months' experience operating a motor vehicle, as documented to the satisfaction of the commissioner;

(3) completes the written examination for a driver's license with a passing score; and

(4) complies with all other laws for reinstatement of a provisional or regular driver's license, as applicable.

**History:** 2005 c 10 art 1 s 31

## **169A.60 ADMINISTRATIVE IMPOUNDMENT OF PLATES.**

*[For text of subs 1 to 9, see M.S.2004]*

**Subd. 10. Petition for judicial review.** (a) Within 30 days following receipt of a notice and order of impoundment under this section, a person may petition the court for review. The petition must include proof of service of a copy of the petition on the commissioner. The petition must include the petitioner's date of birth, driver's license number, and date of the plate impoundment violation, as well as the name of the violator and the law enforcement agency that issued the plate impoundment order. The petition must state with specificity the grounds upon which the petitioner seeks rescission of the order for impoundment. The petition may be combined with any petition filed under section 169A.53 (administrative and judicial review of license revocation).

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the judicial review and hearing are governed by section 169A.53 and must take place at the same time as any judicial review of the person's license revocation under section 169A.53. The filing of the petition does not stay the impoundment order. The reviewing court may order a stay of the balance of the impoundment period if the hearing has not been conducted within 60 days after filing of the petition upon terms the court deems proper. The court shall order either that the impoundment be rescinded or sustained, and forward the order to the commissioner. The court shall file its order within 14 days following the hearing.

(c) In addition to the issues described in section 169A.53, subdivision 3 (judicial review of license revocation), the scope of a hearing under this subdivision is limited to:

(1) if the impoundment is based on a plate impoundment violation described in subdivision 1, paragraph (d), clause (3) or (4), whether the peace officer had probable cause to believe the violator committed the plate impoundment violation and whether the evidence demonstrates that the plate impoundment violation occurred; and

(2) for all other cases, whether the peace officer had probable cause to believe the violator committed the plate impoundment violation.

(d) In a hearing under this subdivision, the following records are admissible in evidence:

(1) certified copies of the violator's driving record; and

(2) certified copies of vehicle registration records bearing the violator's name.

**Subd. 11. Rescission of revocation and dismissal or acquittal; new plates. If:**

(1) the driver's license revocation that is the basis for an impoundment order is rescinded; and

(2) the charges for the plate impoundment violation have been dismissed with prejudice or the violator has been acquitted of the plate impoundment violation;

then the registrar of motor vehicles shall issue new registration plates for the vehicle at no cost, when the registrar receives an application that includes a copy of the order rescinding the driver's license revocation and either the order dismissing the charges or the judgment of acquittal.

*[For text of subds 12 to 15, see M.S.2004]*

Subd. 16. **Fees credited.** Fees collected from the sale or reinstatement of license plates under this section must be paid into the state treasury and credited one-half to the vehicle services operating account in the special revenue fund specified in section 299A.705 and one-half to the general fund.

*[For text of subds 17 and 18, see M.S.2004]*

**History:** 2005 c 136 art 18 s 5,6; 1Sp2005 c 6 art 2 s 36

# **169A.63 VEHICLE FORFEITURE.**

*[For text of subds 1 to 5, see M.S.2004]*

Subd. 6. **Vehicle subject to forfeiture.** (a) A motor vehicle is subject to forfeiture under this section if it was used in the commission of a designated offense or was used in conduct resulting in a designated license revocation.

(b) Motorboats subject to seizure and forfeiture under this section also include their trailers.

*[For text of subd 7, see M.S.2004]*

Subd. 8. **Administrative forfeiture procedure.** (a) A motor vehicle used to commit a designated offense or used in conduct resulting in a designated license revocation is subject to administrative forfeiture under this subdivision.

(b) When a motor vehicle is seized under subdivision 2, or within a reasonable time after seizure, the appropriate agency shall serve the driver or operator of the vehicle with a notice of the seizure and intent to forfeit the vehicle. Additionally, when a motor vehicle is seized under subdivision 2, or within a reasonable time after that, all persons known to have an ownership, possessory, or security interest in the vehicle must be notified of the seizure and the intent to forfeit the vehicle. For those vehicles required to be registered under chapter 168, the notification to a person known to have a security interest in the vehicle is required only if the vehicle is registered under chapter 168 and the interest is listed on the vehicle's title. Notice mailed by certified mail to the address shown in Department of Public Safety records is sufficient notice to the registered owner of the vehicle. For motor vehicles not required to be registered under chapter 168, notice mailed by certified mail to the address shown in the applicable filing or registration for the vehicle is sufficient notice to a person known to have an ownership, possessory, or security interest in the vehicle. Otherwise, notice may be given in the manner provided by law for service of a summons in a civil action.

(c) The notice must be in writing and contain:

(1) a description of the vehicle seized;

(2) the date of seizure; and

(3) notice of the right to obtain judicial review of the forfeiture and of the procedure for obtaining that judicial review, printed in English, Hmong, and Spanish. Substantially the following language must appear conspicuously: "IF YOU DO NOT DEMAND JUDICIAL REVIEW EXACTLY AS PRESCRIBED IN MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 169A.63, SUBDIVISION 8, YOU LOSE THE RIGHT TO A JUDICIAL DETERMINATION OF THIS FORFEITURE AND YOU LOSE ANY RIGHT YOU MAY HAVE TO THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY. YOU MAY NOT HAVE TO PAY THE FILING FEE FOR THE DEMAND IF DETERMINED YOU ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD THE FEE. IF THE PROPERTY IS WORTH \$7,500 OR LESS, YOU MAY FILE YOUR CLAIM IN CONCILIATION COURT. YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PAY THE CONCILIATION COURT FILING FEE IF THE PROPERTY IS WORTH LESS THAN \$500."

(d) Within 30 days following service of a notice of seizure and forfeiture under this subdivision, a claimant may file a demand for a judicial determination of the forfeiture. The demand must be in the form of a civil complaint and must be filed with the court administrator in the county in which the seizure occurred, together with proof of

service of a copy of the complaint on the prosecuting authority having jurisdiction over the forfeiture and the appropriate agency that initiated the forfeiture, including the standard filing fee for civil actions unless the petitioner has the right to sue in forma pauperis under section 563.01. If the value of the seized property is \$7,500 or less, the claimant may file an action in conciliation court for recovery of the seized vehicle. A copy of the conciliation court statement of claim must be served personally or by mail on the prosecuting authority having jurisdiction over the forfeiture, as well as on the appropriate agency that initiated the forfeiture, within 30 days following service of the notice of seizure and forfeiture under this subdivision. If the value of the seized property is less than \$500, the claimant does not have to pay the conciliation court filing fee.

No responsive pleading is required of the prosecuting authority and no court fees may be charged for the prosecuting authority's appearance in the matter. The prosecuting authority may appear for the appropriate agency. Pleadings, filings, and methods of service are governed by the Rules of Civil Procedure.

(e) The complaint must be captioned in the name of the claimant as plaintiff and the seized vehicle as defendant, and must state with specificity the grounds on which the claimant alleges the vehicle was improperly seized, the claimant's interest in the vehicle seized, and any affirmative defenses the claimant may have. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, an action for the return of a vehicle seized under this section may not be maintained by or on behalf of any person who has been served with a notice of seizure and forfeiture unless the person has complied with this subdivision.

(f) If the claimant makes a timely demand for a judicial determination under this subdivision, the forfeiture proceedings must be conducted as provided under subdivision 9.

*[For text of subds 9 to 11, see M.S.2004]*

**History:** 2005 c 136 art 18 s 7; 1Sp2005 c 1 art 2 s 139

## **169A.70 ALCOHOL SAFETY PROGRAMS; CHEMICAL USE ASSESSMENTS.**

*[For text of subds 1 and 2, see M.S.2004]*

**Subd. 3. Assessment report.** (a) The assessment report must be on a form prescribed by the commissioner and shall contain an evaluation of the convicted defendant concerning the defendant's prior traffic and criminal record, characteristics and history of alcohol and chemical use problems, and amenability to rehabilitation through the alcohol safety program. The report is classified as private data on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12.

(b) The assessment report must include:

- (1) a diagnosis of the nature of the offender's chemical and alcohol involvement;
- (2) an assessment of the severity level of the involvement;
- (3) a recommended level of care for the offender in accordance with the criteria contained in rules adopted by the commissioner of human services under section 254A.03, subdivision 3 (chemical dependency treatment rules);
- (4) an assessment of the offender's placement needs;
- (5) recommendations for other appropriate remedial action or care, including aftercare services in section 254B.01, subdivision 3, that may consist of educational programs, one-on-one counseling, a program or type of treatment that addresses mental health concerns, or a combination of them; and

(6) a specific explanation why no level of care or action was recommended, if applicable.

*[For text of subds 4 and 5, see M.S.2004]*

**Subd. 6. Method of assessment.** (a) As used in this subdivision, "collateral contact" means an oral or written communication initiated by an assessor for the purpose of gathering information from an individual or agency, other than the offender, to verify

or supplement information provided by the offender during an assessment under this section. The term includes contacts with family members and criminal justice agencies.

(b) An assessment conducted under this section must include at least one personal interview with the offender designed to make a determination about the extent of the offender's past and present chemical and alcohol use or abuse. It must also include collateral contacts and a review of relevant records or reports regarding the offender including, but not limited to, police reports, arrest reports, driving records, chemical testing records, and test refusal records. If the offender has a probation officer, the officer must be the subject of a collateral contact under this subdivision. If an assessor is unable to make collateral contacts, the assessor shall specify why collateral contacts were not made.

**Subd. 7. Preconviction assessment.** (a) The court may not accept a chemical use assessment conducted before conviction as a substitute for the assessment required by this section unless the court ensures that the preconviction assessment meets the standards described in this section.

(b) If the commissioner of public safety is making a decision regarding reinstating a person's driver's license based on a chemical use assessment, the commissioner shall ensure that the assessment meets the standards described in this section.

**History:** 2005 c 136 art 18 s 8-10