DC Criminal Defense Lawyers The Law Offices of David Benowitz

Areas of Defense

June 4, 2010

DUI/DWI

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Actress Lindsay Lohan Receives DUI Conviction, Ordered to Wear Alcohol-Monitoring Bracelet

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A DC DUI Lawyer knows the myriad of possible consequences resulting from a DUI conviction. Suspension of driving privileges, fines, jail time, and alcohol treatment and monitoring are all likely penalties if someone is convicted of driving under the influence.

Recently, actress Lindsay Lohan was ordered by the court to wear an alcohol monitoring ankle bracelet when she missed a mandatory hearing related to a 2007 DUI arrest. This is the second time Lohan has been ordered to wear an alcohol monitoring device, and she joins other celebrities, including rapper Eve and es-basketball player Jayson Williams, who have been mandated to wear the device.

The device, called SCRAMx, detects alcohol in the wearer's skin and takes readings every 30 minutes. The device transmits the blood alcohol concentration (BAC) readings once daily, and while readings can be blocked by something being slipped between the bracelet and the skin, the device registers the blockage. Use of a barrier to block alcohol monitoring is usually considered a violation of parole or probation. Alcohol monitoring bracelets are currently used in 49 states.

According to the SCRAMx website, the device is useful for DUI programs. The makers of SCRAMx assert that the device can be used as a deterrent to drinking and driving and can also be used to assess alcohol dependency to help authorities determine a course of individual treatment.

However, not everyone is convinced of the effectiveness of an alcoholmonitoring ankle bracelet. At least one DUI defense attorney claims his

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client initially chose the bracelet over a jail sentence, but after only a few days, he returned the bracelet and chose to go to jail rather than wear the bulky, uncomfortable device.

DUI penalties can be severe. From significant fines to incarceration, the consequences of a DUI conviction can have long-lasting impact on convicted drivers. A Washington DC DUI lawyer knows how to evaluate the circumstances of the arrest and challenge the results of sobriety tests to protect the rights of those charged with driving under the influence.