



## Bulletin 13-01

### “Online” DUI Services

There are multiple out-of-state organizations offering individuals convicted of driving-under-the-influence the availability of internet [online] “DUI services” to satisfy the requirements of the Court and Department of Motor Vehicles. There have been a small number of courts not having a clear understanding of State law and/or regulations, who may have advised individuals they could satisfy the requirements by providing proof of completion of an online program.

This misleading information does a disservice to the individual in that they could pay for an online program only to have their application for license reinstatement rejected by DMV and be advised that they must enroll and complete a state licensed DUI treatment program. It is also not in the interest of public safety.

1. California’s Health and Safety Code (Sections 11836-11838.11), as well as Title 13, Section 120.2 establish the requirement that an individual convicted of a driving-under-the-influence in California must attend and complete their DUI program services in a program duly licensed by California’s Department of Health Care Services. Chapter 3, Division 4, Title 9, California Code of Regulations clearly specify how DUI treatment services are to be delivered.
2. Online services could allow an individual convicted of a DUI offense to complete a DUI treatment program by paying a friend, acquaintance, or family member to complete the course for them, not to mention concerns re: the impact of online counseling.

State licensed DUI programs provide a level of alcohol and drug outpatient treatment consisting of prevention and education services, with focus on in-person individual and group counseling to prevent future DUI incidents, and encourage behavioral change to reduce the impact of substance abuse.

1. The majority of individuals convicted of DUI, be it a first, second or multiple offense register blood alcohol content [BAC] in excess of .10 at the time of arrest. The mean average is between .13 and .18. Many have a BAC of .20 or higher. Anyone operating a motor vehicle with these levels of alcohol in their system has developed a tolerance for alcohol, meaning they drink a lot and drink often.
2. Those with a BAC of .18 or higher exhibit symptoms of early stage alcoholism at a minimum and some are clearly alcoholic and/or addicted to other drugs.
3. The most critical component of DUI treatment is the group counseling process that breaks down the denial individuals have regarding the extent of their alcohol/drug abuse, and helps become open to changing their life style. Online services could never duplicate this vital group process.
4. State Licensed DUI programs are skilled at treating both alcohol and drug abuse.

Online services would do nothing to enhance California’s public safety, as it would allow an individual with a demonstrated alcohol/drug problem ***to not*** receive treatment services needed to change their life style and cease driving-under-the-influence.

We trust the courts will find this information helpful, ensuring that individuals convicted of a DUI offense receive effective counseling and treatment in compliance with California law.

***California Association of DUI Treatment Programs***  
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