



FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Fulton County Sheriff's Office Participating in "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over"

FCSO warns drivers to avoid a costly DUI arrest by never choosing to drive after drinking

The Fulton County Sheriff's Office and Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) are asking everyone to make the holidays merry by making the decision to never drive after drinking. It is estimated that a DUI arrest can cost up to \$10,000 in court fees, fines, attorney fees, and higher insurance premiums. A DUI conviction may also cost someone their job or prevent them from being hired.

Fulton County Sheriff's Office is joining sheriff's offices, police departments, and the Georgia State Patrol across the state to reduce crashes, deaths, and injuries for the annual "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" enforcement campaign from December 14, 2023 through January 1, 2024.

Law enforcement will step up enforcement during the holiday season and will take any driver they find to be over the legal blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) level of .08 in Georgia to jail. No warnings. No call a friend to drive you home. No exceptions.

"All drunk driving deaths are completely preventable because they are all caused by someone making the wrong decision to drive after drinking," said Lt. Michael Lynch, FCSO Traffic Unit. "We are warning everyone NOW is the time to plan a sober ride before the party or celebration because our deputies will not be giving warnings to drunk and drugged drivers we find on the road."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), there were more than 4,500 people killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes in the United States in the month of December from 2017 to 2021 and 1,013 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes in the U.S. in December of 2021. Federal crash data shows male drivers were four times more likely to be alcohol-impaired and involved in fatal traffic crashes than females and drivers ages 21-34 accounted for the highest percentage of alcohol-impaired drivers involved in fatal traffic crashes in the U.S. in December of 2021.

In Georgia, one out of four persons killed in traffic crashes in December from 2017 to 2021 involved a driver whose BAC was higher than the state's legal limit and 70% of the fatal alcohol-impaired driving crashes in the state in December during this five-year period involved one driver with a BAC that was more than twice the legal limit.

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“The holidays are time for families and friends to celebrate but there are too many families who will be spending this holiday season missing a loved one whose life was ended by a drunk or drugged driver,” GOHS Director Allen Poole said. “If alcohol is going to be part of the celebration, make sure the plans include for a sober ride and do not let family or friends get behind the wheel if you believe they are too impaired to drive.”

Fulton County Sheriff’s Office, GOHS, and NHTSA offer the following tips to help stop drunk driving:

1. Chose a non-drinking person to be the designated driver before going out.
2. Do not let someone you know get behind the wheel if they have been drinking.
3. Let friends know they can contact you for a sober ride when needed.
4. Those hosting a party where alcohol is served should make sure guests leave with a sober driver.
5. Always wear your seat belt because it is the best defense against impaired drivers.

ABOUT THE FULTON COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE: The mission of the Fulton County Sheriff’s Office is Service; through laser-focused efforts to protect the citizens of Fulton County with coordinated law enforcement operations, special strategic teams, and community outreach methods. The Sheriff’s Office is constitutionally responsible for the security of all courtrooms, executing arrest warrants, and serving civil papers. In addition, the Sheriff’s Office is responsible for the administration and operation of the Fulton County Jail.

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