

Here are some simple answers to common questions about Florida's Zero Tolerance Law for drivers under age 21. The law is found in Section 322.2616, Florida Statutes.

What is the unlawful breath-alcohol level for a driver under age 21?

It is illegal for anyone under age 21 to drink alcoholic beverages. However, the Florida Legislature set the illegal breath alcohol level at .02 grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath so that drivers under age 21 who take small amounts of medications containing alcohol would not lose their licenses.

How much can I drink before I reach .02?

Everyone's body reacts differently to alcohol. Some people will reach .02 after drinking less than 12 ounces of beer or a wine cooler.

Can I be arrested for DUI if I am under age 21?

Yes, if you are driving under the influence to the extent that your normal faculties are impaired or your breath-alcohol level is above .08, you can be arrested for DUI.

Will I be arrested for violating the Zero Tolerance Law?

No.

Will I lose my license if I am caught driving with a breath-alcohol level above .02?

Yes.

How long will I lose my license?

For a first offense, it will be suspended for at least six months.

Will my parents be called?

If you are under age 18, yes.

Will I be fined for violating the Zero Tolerance Law?

No, but you will have to pay a fee to get your license reinstated.

Will my insurance rates go up?

Probably.

Will I have an illegal breath alcohol level if I take cough syrup or other medication containing alcohol?

If you follow the directions, most medications will not produce an .02 level. But, some medications contain other drugs that impair. You should not drive after taking a medicine that causes drowsiness.