



IMPAIRED DRIVING

Task Force Newsletter



Save a Life™
Texas Department of Transportation

Language Barriers Impede Effective DWI Education for Non-English/Spanish Speaking Offenders

Judge Matthew Hand, Potter County Court at Law #2, raised an important issue: DWI Education is a probation requirement for intoxication related offenses, but courses are only available in English and Spanish. It is not equitable to waive the requirement for non-English/Spanish speaking populations. Although, Judge Hand was specifically raising this issue for the large Burmese and Somali refugee populations who have settled in Amarillo, there are other non-English/Spanish speaking populations to consider across the state. The Texas Impaired Driving Task Force discussed two possible solutions:

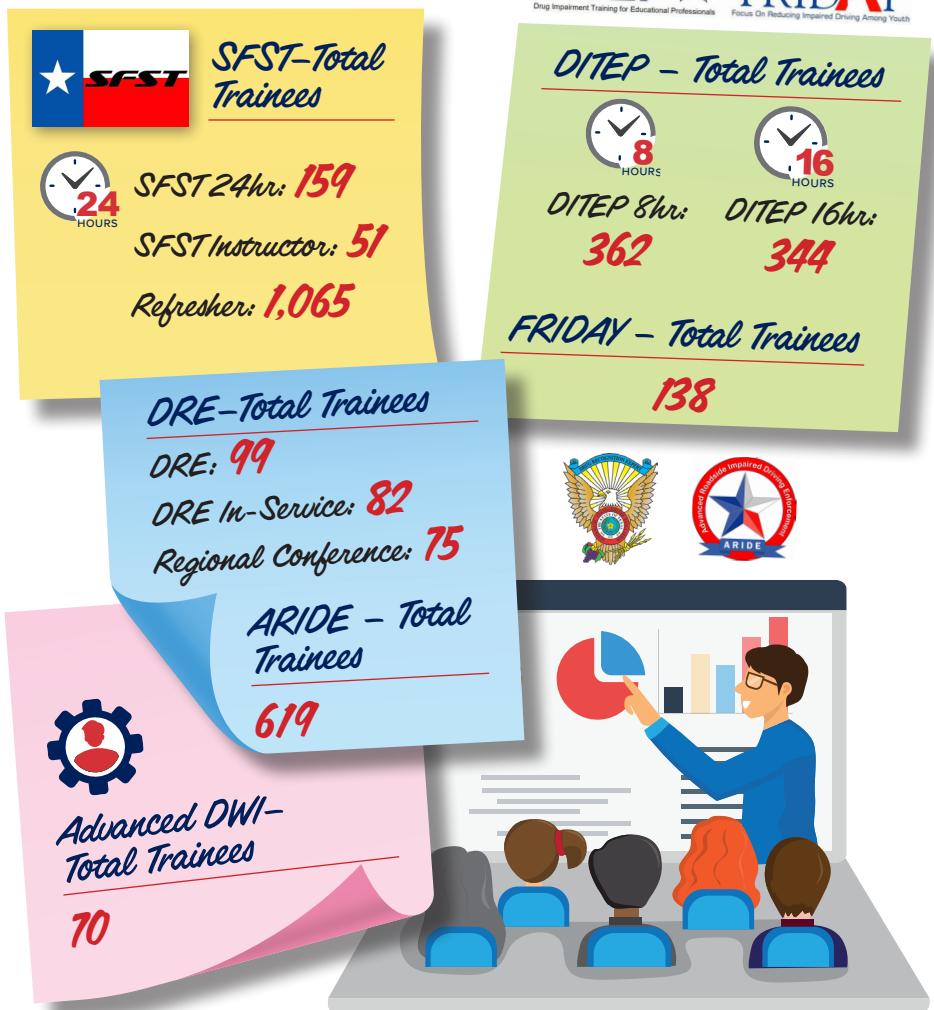
Proposed Solution #1: Translate the existing DWI Education Course and Victim Impact Panel.

Proposed Solution #2: Amend Penal Code 42A 4.03 (c) to allow for an alternate program.

The Texas Impaired Driving Task Force has convened a subcommittee to further discuss the issue of equity in DWI Education probation requirements for non-English/Spanish speakers.

At the July 27, 2023 meeting of the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force, the following impaired-driving topics were discussed by the membership.

Impaired Driving Enforcement Training and Detection Fiscal Year 2023 Program Highlights





Be A Blake Foundation

The Texas DRE Program has partnered with the Be A Blake Foundation. Blake was 32 when his life was tragically taken on August 31, 2021, by a drug-impaired driver. The mission of the Be A Blake Foundation is to educate all on the dangers of drug-impaired driving and to support further training for law enforcement officials to better identify drug-impaired driving, with a goal to save lives by making our roads, streets, and highways safer.

Attending DRE school can be cost prohibitive for law enforcement agencies and individual officers. The Be A Blake Foundation offers scholarships for officers to attend DRE school. To learn more and donate to this non-profit, go to <https://www.beablakefoundation.com>.



Carlos Chavarria
Jackie Rhone (Blake's mother and Founder of Be A Blake) pictured with Officer Dodson.

Officer Jeremy Dodson, Plum Grove PD, is the first recipient of the Be A Blake scholarship to attend DRE school.

[Be A Blake Foundation inaugural golf tournament fundraiser](#) will be held on November 16th in Houston, Texas. More details to come!

IACP Drug Recognition Expert Final Roll Call

In memory of the DREs who have fallen in the past year.



Trooper II Anthony Deda

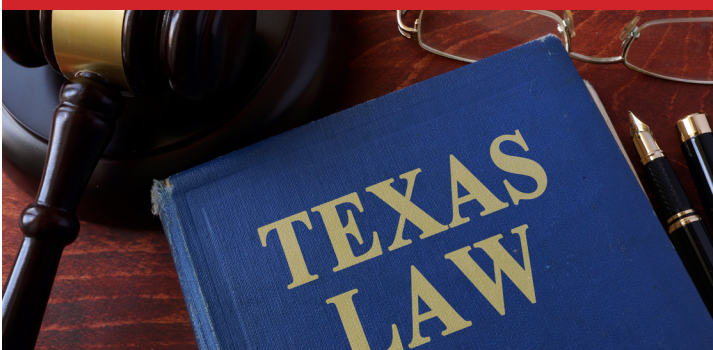
Texas Department of Public Safety
DRE 35874
San Antonio 2022
End of Watch: July 25, 2022



Officer Anthony Martin

Austin Police Department
DRE 24685
Georgetown 2015
End of Watch: September 23, 2022





Legislative Update

The Texas Impaired Driving Task Force's Legislative Subcommittee has been monitoring impaired-driving legislation. The following bills have been signed into law. For a more detailed analysis of these bills, please view the [meeting notes](#).

- **[HB 291](#)**: Relating to occupational driver's licenses and to the renewal of driver's licenses. *Effective on 9/1/23.*
- **[HB 420](#)**: Relating to the offense of providing an alcoholic beverage to a minor; increasing a criminal penalty. *Effective on 9/1/23.*
- **[HB 393](#)**: Relating to restitution payments for the support of a child whose parent or guardian is a victim of intoxication manslaughter. *Effective on 9/1/23.*
- **[HB 1163](#)**: Relating to creating the criminal offense of boating while intoxicated with a child passenger; changing the eligibility for deferred adjudication community supervision. *Effective on 9/1/23.*
- **[HB 3186](#)**: Relating to youth diversion strategies and procedures for children accused of certain fine-only offenses in municipal and justice courts and related criminal justice matters; authorizing fees. *Effective on 1/1/24.*
- **[HB 4528](#)**: Relating to the requirement that a peace officer take possession of a person's driver's license following the person's failure to pass or refusal to consent to a test for intoxication. *Effective on 9/1/23.*
- **[SB 760](#)**: Relating to taking a blood specimen from the body of a deceased person during an inquest. *Effective on 9/1/23.*
- **[SB 773](#)**: Relating to access to certain investigational drugs, biological products, and devices used in clinical trials by patients with severe chronic diseases. *Effective immediately.*



2023 Drug Toxicology Aged Case Verification Project

This project concluded on May 31st, 2023. There were 77 counties assigned out and 608 cases were identified as no longer needed. This project will continue in Fiscal Year 2024 to continue reducing the case backlog.

For more information about the project, contact:

Trace Pollock, Project Coordinator

Texas Department of Public Safety – Crime Lab Division

trace.pollock@dps.texas.gov

1-512-424-0261





TxDOT's Statewide Impaired Driving Campaign: "Drive Sober. No Regrets."

The "Drive Sober. No Regrets." statewide impaired driving campaign is an effort by TxDOT to raise awareness about the dangers of driving while intoxicated. The "Drive Sober. No Regrets." campaign asks that all Texans do one simple thing: Don't get behind the wheel after you've been drinking any amount of alcohol. The campaign focuses on these six key time-frames (digital campaigns year round): College/Spring Break, Spring and Early Summer, Faces of Drunk Driving, Labor Day, Football, Holiday. An example from the football season campaign can be seen to the right.

The campaign messages are focused on covering [consequences](#), [sharing real stories](#), and [encouraging finding a sober ride](#). Audiences are targeted through various types of marketing, such as digital, broadcast TV and radio, public relations, social media influencers, public outreach events, and "points of decision" marketing (e.g., bars and convenience stores). The campaign aims to challenge any notion that



people can avoid the consequences of drinking and driving and reminds drivers and motorcyclists to avoid drinking and driving or risk injuring someone, killing someone, or facing severe costs that include fines and fees, loss of their driver's license, probation and even jail time. You can find more information on the "Drive Sober. No Regrets." campaign at SoberRides.org.



Updates from the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (TRCC)

This statewide group of stakeholders uses the TRCC as a forum for the planning, coordination, and implementation of projects to improve Texas' traffic records system. The TRCC uses federal "State Traffic Safety Information System Improvement Grants (405c)" and other funds to promote projects to improve the accessibility, accuracy, completeness, consistency, timeliness, and uniformity of the traffic records systems in Texas. These projects include efforts to improve individual databases as well as to promote linkages between the core traffic records systems through the development of interfaces to improve direct business needs and integration to improve data analysis.

Read Newsletter [here](#).

Join the TRCC email list [here](#).



SEPTEMBER

- [Texas DRE: Texas Parks and Wildlife – ARIDE Course](#)
September 5–6 | Hamilton, TX
- [Texas DRE: Bridgeport – ARIDE Course](#)
September 6–7 | Bridgeport, TX
- [Texas DRE: North Richland Hills – DRE In-Service \(Recertification\) Course](#)
September 8 | North Richland Hills, TX
- [TxSFST: Waller 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
September 12 | Hempstead, TX
- [TxSFST: Tarrant 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
September 13 | Fort Worth, TX
- [Texas DRE: Houston – DRE In-Service \(Recertification\) Course](#)
September 14 | Houston, TX
- [Texas DRE: Round Rock – DRE In-Service \(Recertification\) Course](#)
September 15 | Round Rock, TX
- [MADD: Walk Like MADD – Northeast Texas](#)
September 16 | Sulfur Springs, TX
- [Texas DRE: Mission – ARIDE Course](#)
September 20–21 | Mission, TX
- [Andrea's Project: 2nd Annual Two Person Scramble](#)
September 23 | Amarillo, TX
- [MADD: Walk Like MADD – Harris and Montgomery County](#)
September 23 | Jersey Village, TX
- [AAMVA: American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators – Annual International Conference](#)
September 26–28 | Madison, WI



OCTOBER

- [Texas DRE: San Antonio – DRE Basic Certification Course](#)
October 2–12 | San Antonio, TX
- [Texas DRE: Georgetown – ARIDE Course](#)
October 3–4 | Georgetown, TX
- [Texas DRE: Houston – ARIDE Course](#)
October 3–4 | Houston, TX
- [NLLEA: National Liquor Law Conference](#)
October 4–6 | Virginia Beach, VA
- [Texas DRE: San Antonio – DRE In-Service \(Recertification\) Course](#)
October 13 | San Antonio, TX
- [IACP: Annual Conference](#)
October 14–17 | San Diego, CA
- [Texas DRE: San Antonio – ARIDE Course](#)
October 16–17 | San Antonio, TX
- [Texas DRE: Montgomery County – ARIDE Course](#)
October 16–17 | Conroe, TX
- [Texas DRE: Fort Bend County – ARIDE Course](#)
October 18–19 | Richmond, TX
- [Texas DRE: Denton – ARIDE Course](#)
October 19–20 | Denton, TX
- [MADD: Walk Like MADD](#)
El Paso, October 21 | El Paso, TX
- [Texas DRE: College Station – ARIDE Course](#)
October 24–25 | College Station, TX
- [TxSFST: Alice 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
October 27 | Alice, TX
- [TxSFST: Houston 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
October 30 | Houston, TX
- [TxSFST: Medina 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
October 30 | Hondo, TX

Upcoming Events
Continued on page 6.



Newsletter Additions

If you would you like to add anything to the next edition of the newsletter, please send your information to c-adams@tti.tamu.edu or e-shields@tti.tamu.edu.



The next meeting:

**Thursday,
November 2, 2023**

Norris Conference Center
2525 W Anderson Ln. #365
Austin, TX 78757



Continued: Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

- [Texas Impaired Driving Task Force Meeting](#)
November 2 | Austin, TX
- [Texas DRE: Del Rio – ARIDE Course](#)
November 2–3 | Del Rio, TX
- [MADD: Walk Like MADD – San Antonio](#)
November 4 | San Antonio, TX
- [Texas DRE: Irving – ARIDE Course](#)
November 6–7 | Irving, TX
- [TxSFST: Mount Vernon 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)
November 8 | Mount Vernon, TX
- [Texas DRE: Houston – ARIDE Course](#)
November 13–14 | Houston, TX
- [Texas DRE: Houston – DRE In-Service \(Recertification\) Course](#)
November 15 | Houston, TX
- [BeABlake Foundation: Inaugural Golf Tournament Fundraiser](#) November 16 | Houston, TX
- [Texas DRE: Rockwall – ARIDE Course](#)
November 16–17 | Rockwall, TX
- [Texas DRE: Klein – ARIDE Course](#)
November 20–21 | Klein, TX
- [Texas DRE: Greenville – ARIDE Course](#)
November 27–28 | Greenville, TX
- [Texas DRE: Grand Prairie – ARIDE Course](#)
November 29–30 | Grand Prairie, TX
- [MADD: Walk Like MADD – Beaumont](#)
November 30 | Lumberton, TX



Impact of Compliance-Based Removal Laws on Alcohol-Impaired Driving Recidivism



Resources

- [Alcohol, Other Drug, and Multiple Drug Use Among Drivers Safety Research Report – NTSB](#)
- [Ketamine Evolving Clinical Roles and Potential Effects with Cognitive, Motor and Driving Ability](#)
- [Impact of Compliance-Based Removal Laws on Alcohol-Impaired Driving Recidivism – GHSA](#)
- [Cannabis-Impaired driving: ethical considerations for the primary care practitioner](#)
- [Current Drug Trends \(Updated June 2023\) – Tall Cop Says Stop](#)
- [Monitoring the Future: National data on substance use among adults ages 19 to 60, 1976-2022 - Sponsored by NIDA and NIH](#)

