

TO: Senate Committee on Judiciary
House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

FROM: Joe McGehee

DATE: January 25, 2012

RE: DUI Issues/Interlock Device

My name is Joe McGehee, and I had an interlock device installed in my car in July 2011. I asked the staff at the interlock company about driving a company vehicle and was told that I could as long as the vehicle was not registered in my name. I have had conflicting information since then.

I was promoted to a sales position in November and the issue of my driving my own vehicle, equipped with an interlock device, in the commission of my work. The letter, from the State Driver Control, states that I can only drive to and from work. I, wanting clarification, contacted Senator Tom Holland. He put me in contact with a liaison to the Governor's office, who made a 3-way phone call to a supervisor with Driver Control. I was told that I absolutely could not drive anywhere the first year except to and from work, school, or the interlock company. I then decided to contact a different interlock company in Kansas City to see what I would be told. They told me I could drive my car, and in addition I could drive a company vehicle. At this point, I'm totally confused, so I contact the Department of Public Safety, and spoke with an officer and told him my story and asked him. "If you stopped me at 2:00 in the afternoon and saw the letter that I carry stating to and from work, and you knew I was working...would you take me to jail for driving while suspended?" He said he would not touch it.

So, I am now no further along in my quest for clarification than I was when I started. I do, however, know that there is a lot of misinformation out there that needs to be cleared up. There are interlock companies telling clients that they can drive when in reality they may not be able to.

My questions are, what do I do if I need to go to the grocery store, or to the doctor, or to the bank? I clearly understand the idea of punishment. I clearly will own my on indiscretions, but there should be a better way to do this. People still have to live a life.

The law is that there is a one year mandatory suspension, then a year of interlock. Why couldn't there be two years of interlock allowing a driver to drive wherever he or she needs to? I am at this point asking this committee to help find a solution to a difficult situation that greatly limits me in everyday things that are necessary.

Many Thanks,
Joe McGehee
Next to Nature Landscapes

Corrections and Juvenile Justice
Date: 1-25-12
Attachment # 8-1