

Ohio Penalties for Common Substance Abuse, Drug Trafficking, and Other Offenses

Alcohol Offenses

[Ohio Revised Code \(O.R.C.\) Section 4301.63](#) provides that no person under the age of 21 years shall purchase beer or intoxicating liquor. The penalty for a violation may include a fine of not less than \$25, but no more than \$100 may be imposed. The court may order that the fine be paid by the performance of public work at a reasonable hourly rate established by the court and shall designate the time within which the public work shall be completed.

[O.R.C. Section 4301.631](#) provides that no underage person can purchase low alcohol beverages, that no person may furnish low alcohol beverages to an underage person, and that no person shall allow underage persons to consume low alcohol beverages on his or her property. Punishments for violating [O.R.C. Section 4301.631](#) range from fines of \$25 to \$250 and imprisonment up to 30 days.

[O.R.C. Section 4301.633](#) provides that no person shall knowingly furnish any false information as to the name, age, or other identification of any person under 21 years of age for the purpose of obtaining beer or intoxicating liquor for a person under 21 years of age, by purchase or as a gift. Violation of this law is a misdemeanor of the first degree. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 6 months and a \$1,000 fine.

[O.R.C. Section 4301.634](#) provides that no person under the age of 21 years shall knowingly show or give false information concerning his name, age, or other identification for the purpose of purchasing or otherwise obtaining beer or intoxicating liquor in any place in this state where beer or intoxicating liquor is sold under a permit issued by the department of liquor control. Violation of this law is a misdemeanor of the first degree. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 6 months and a \$1,000 fine.

[O.R.C. Section 4301.64](#) prohibits the consumption of any beer or intoxicating liquor in a motor vehicle. Violation of this law is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 30 days and a \$250 fine.

[O.R.C. Section 4301.69\(A\)](#) prohibits selling beer or intoxicating liquor to a person under the age of 21 years, or buying it for or furnishing it to such a person. Violation of this law is a misdemeanor. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 6 months and a fine of not less than \$500 and no more than \$1,000.

[O.R.C. Section 4301.69\(E\)](#) provides that no underage person shall knowingly possess or consume any beer or intoxicating liquor, in any public or private place, unless he is accompanied by a parent, spouse, or legal guardian, who is not an underage person, or unless the beer or intoxicating liquor is given for medical or religious purposes. Violation of this law is a misdemeanor of the first degree. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 6 months and a \$1,000 fine.

[O.R.C. Section 4511.19](#) prohibits any person from driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and/or any drug of abuse. Violation of this law is a misdemeanor of the first degree. The maximum penalty is imprisonment for not more than 6 months and a \$1,000 fine, in addition to license suspension. Penalties for repeat offenders can result in up to 5 years in prison.

Drug Offenses

[O.R.C. Section 2925.02](#) provides that no person shall knowingly corrupt another with drugs by inducing or forcing them to use a controlled substance. The penalty is mandatory imprisonment from 6 months to 10 years, depending upon amount and type of drug involved and history of previous drug abuse offenses.

[O.R.C. Section 2925.03](#) provides that no person shall knowingly traffick in controlled or illicit substances, including marijuana. Trafficking includes selling, offering to sell, delivering, distributing, preparing, cultivating, and manufacturing of controlled substances. The penalty is mandatory fines ranging from \$100 to \$20,000, depending on offense and drug involved, and mandatory jail sentences ranging from 6 months to 10 years.

[O.R.C. Section 2925.11](#) provides that no person shall knowingly obtain, possess, or use a controlled substance. Drug abuse offenses involving amounts of marijuana less than 100 grams carries a penalty of \$100. Other violations involving marijuana result in mandatory jail terms of not more than 8 years and mandatory fines of \$15,000. Drug abuse offenses involving other drugs may result in jail terms of up to 10 years and fines of \$20,000.

[O.R.C. Section 2925.12](#) provides that no person shall make obtain, possess, or use drug abuse instruments. A first offense can carry a jail term of up to 90 days and fines of \$750, plus driver's license suspension for a period of six months to five years.

[O.R.C. Section 2925.14](#) provides that no person shall knowingly use, possess with purpose to use, sell, manufacture or advertise drug paraphernalia. Depending upon the facts, the penalty is imprisonment up to 6 months and fines up to \$1,000.

[O.R.C. Section 2925.31](#) provides, except for lawful research, clinical, medical, dental, or veterinary purposes, no person with intent to induce intoxication or similar effect, shall obtain, possess, or use a harmful intoxicant. The penalty is fines up to \$1,000 and 6 months in jail, plus driver's license suspension for a period of six months to five years.

[O.R.C. Section 2925.37](#) provides that no person shall knowingly possess, make, sell, or deliver counterfeit controlled substances. Depending upon the facts, the penalty can be up to 180 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine, but aggravating circumstances can cause the offense to become a felony of the fourth degree with prison terms between 6-18 months and a fine up to \$5,000