

## **Applicable Legal Sanctions for Alcohol and Drug Violations (as of 2026)**

### **Federal Law**

- Possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs is prohibited under federal law and subject to criminal and civil penalties.
- Penalties range from up to 1 year in prison and a minimum \$1,000 fine for simple possession (21 U.S.C. 844) to multi-year prison terms and substantial fines for trafficking offenses (21 U.S.C. 841).
- Property connected to a felony drug offense may be forfeited to the United States (21 U.S.C. 853).
- Trafficking that results in death or serious bodily injury carries a mandatory life sentence and fines up to \$10 million.
- Enhanced penalties apply for trafficking within 1,000 feet of a college or university (21 U.S.C. 860).

### **State Law (Washington)**

- Uniform Controlled Substances Act (RCW 69.50): establishes penalties for possession, manufacture, and delivery of controlled substances, ranging from gross misdemeanors to felonies depending on drug type and amount.
- RCW 46.61.503: prohibits consuming alcohol or marijuana and driving under age 21.
- RCW 46.61.504: prohibits being in physical control of a vehicle while under the influence.
- RCW 69.50.4013: prohibits possession of usable marijuana outside legal limits.
- RCW 69.50.401: prohibits the manufacture or delivery of controlled substances.
- RCW 69.41.030: prohibits the sale, delivery, or possession of legend drugs without a valid prescription.
- Violations may result in fines, jail or prison terms, and license sanctions.

### **Local Law**

City of Spokane and Spokane County enforce Washington DUI and drug laws:

- Prohibit public use of illegal drugs within city limits, allowing arrest or citation for open drug use.
- Impose infractions or other sanctions for open-container and alcohol-in-public violations.
- Offer diversion, treatment, or specialty court programs (DUI Court / Drug Court) for certain offenders.