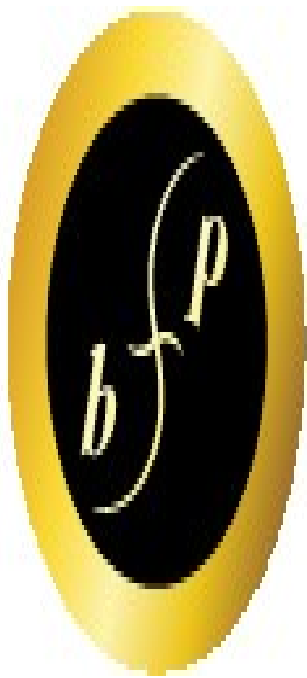




BFP Law Firm Addresses Rising DUI Arrest Enforcement Following Knoxville Sobriety Checkpoints

September 02, 2026

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On August 28, 2026, the Knoxville Police Department conducted a joint sobriety checkpoint with University of Tennessee Police on Volunteer Boulevard, timed ahead of Labor Day weekend. The operation marked the latest in a sustained series of 2026 checkpoints, following earlier enforcement efforts near Fort Sanders on April 24, Kingston Pike on June 5, and Central Avenue Pike on June 26. Department spokesperson Scott Erland stated that the checkpoints are intended to raise public awareness of the consequences of drinking and driving. Police have cited impaired driving as a likely factor in 10 deadly crashes in Knoxville in 2024 and at least seven fatal crashes in 2025.

The enforcement pattern arrives alongside a significant change in state law. As of January 1, 2026, Tennessee expanded its implied consent statute. Drivers who refuse certain chemical tests now face an 18-month license suspension, and oral fluid, or saliva, testing was added for suspected drug-related impaired driving cases. These changes alter what motorists stopped at a checkpoint can expect during and after an encounter with law enforcement.

In response to these developments, the BFP Law Firm Knoxville office has outlined what drivers who are

stopped or arrested should understand about the legal process. The firm's DUI defense work begins with a case evaluation, during which attorneys review arrest details, evidence, and the circumstances leading to the stop in order to identify potential weaknesses in the prosecution's case. Representation continues through general sessions or circuit criminal court and can include negotiation with prosecutors and, when necessary, trial.

"Checkpoints and the expanded implied consent rules mean drivers face higher stakes than many realize," said a BFP Law Firm spokesperson. "Refusing a chemical test now carries an automatic 18-month suspension, and understanding that consequence before a stop occurs helps people make informed decisions. The role of counsel is to examine how an arrest was conducted and to ensure a driver's rights are protected throughout the process."

The firm noted several facts that carry practical value for area residents. A first-time DUI conviction in Tennessee can result in 48 hours to 11 months and 29 days in jail, fines, a one-year license suspension, mandatory DUI education, and a possible ignition interlock requirement. A first, second, or third DUI is classified as a misdemeanor under state law, while a fourth offense is charged as a felony. These distinctions shape the potential exposure a defendant faces.

Through its Tennessee DUI/DWI defense services, the firm represents clients across a wide service area that includes Knoxville, Nashville, Greeneville, and Elizabethton.

BFP Law Firm is a legal practice based in Knoxville, Tennessee, offering services in criminal defense, DUI defense, family law, adoption, and personal injury representation. The firm maintains a presence across dozens of Tennessee counties and additional offices in Elizabethton, Greeneville, and Nashville. Its Knoxville office is located at 318 Erin Drive, Suite 4. The firm represents clients through each stage of the legal process, including detailed paperwork, filing deadlines, and court procedures. Prospective clients and members of the public can review BFP Law Firm reviews and background details through public legal directories.

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