

In The Spotlight with: Mr. Tim Lutz, Attorney at Law

By Kate Feeks

In December watch for the next episode of *Law Talk*, hosted by John Celebrezze. This episode features Attorney Tim Lutz discussing the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles regarding driver's license suspensions. This show can be viewed on Wadsworth Cable (WCTV) Public Access, Channel 15, Brunswick Area Television (BAT) Public Access, Channel 21, and Armstrong Cable Access, Channel 37 in Medina County along with Clear Picture Channels 21 & 22 in Wooster and Massillon.

Under Ohio law, a driver's license can be suspended for many reasons. One of the most common suspensions is driving without insurance. "Driving without insurance, a non compliance suspension, is the most common suspension in Ohio. There are different varieties of this, but one example would be people who don't have any insurance and then they receive a random selection notice requesting them to prove they have it. If the driver cannot prove insurance it could be a non-compliance suspension that way." Attorney Tim Lutz explained.

The length of suspensions has changed in recent years. "It used to be it depended on how many times a driver had a suspension; 90 days, 1 year, 3 years, but now as soon as the driver gets insurance, pays the fine and reinstatement fee, driving privileges are reinstated. There is no real suspension anymore" noted Lutz.

Some of the other ways in which a license can be suspended are:

A 12 point suspension, this is having twelve points on the driving record within a two-year period. The length of this suspension is six months.

First Offense OVI, this is driving under the prohibited influence of drugs or alcohol. The length of this license suspension is determined by the Court.

Child Support suspensions, when a person is default on a child support order, or has failed to comply with a warrant or subpoena regarding child support, the Child Support Enforcement Agency orders a driver's license suspension. The length of the suspension is indefinite until the requirements are met.

"License suspensions are a penalty. Usually you have to wait out a suspension, then pay your reinstatement fee, and make sure you have all your fines and court costs paid before you get the license back. I think the main thing to realize if you are paying your fees off you should be sure to do it through registered mail. Statistics have shown that in 2011, 53,000 people paid fees by mail. If you are going to use the mail you need a record of it. Registered mail is much quicker and overall a better way to handle the situation." advised Lutz.

Tim Lutz lives in Cleveland with his wife Susan and two adults sons. After graduating from Lake Catholic High School in Cleveland, Lutz received an undergraduate degree at The University of Akron in political science and criminal justice in 1983. In 1989 he graduated from The University of Akron School of Law.

To learn more about the law on license suspensions watch for the interview with Mr. Tim Lutz and John Celebrezze on the *Law Talk* throughout the month of December.