Montana

Since May 2009, Judges have the option to order interlocks for first-time offenders and must order these devices for all repeat offenders. As of December 2017, there were 375 interlocks installed in Montana. Between 2006 to 2018, interlocks stopped 5,944 attempts to drive drunk, including 374 in 2018.

Why MADD does not call the law all-offender? Judges are not required to order an interlock for first-time offenders.

Ignition Interlock Law Overview and MADD Legislative Recommendations

How soon can an ignition interlock be installed?		Duration on ignition interlock	Legislative Recommendation
First offense	Upon conviction	6 months	*Require interlocks for all first-time drunk drivers. Eliminate waiting time for repeat offenders to install an interlock. Allow for the use of interlocks for any refusal*
Second offense	45 days after conviction	1 year	
First refusal	Interlocks not available for first-time refusals		

Compliance Based Removal?		No
Legislative Recommendation	*Add a compliance based removal component to the law (a user must prove a certain period of sober driving before exiting the interlock program).*	

Day-for-Day Credit for early installation?		No
Legislative Recommendation	*Allow for the use of ignition interlock after arrest and credit early installation of an interlock toward time ordered on an interlock upon conviction.*	

Do plea agreements or reductions in the original DUI charge include the requirement of an interlock?		No
Legislative Recommendation	*Allow a first-time apprehended drunk driver who did not cause an injury or property damage crash, and successfully completes six continuous months on an ignition interlock and completes other court or department conditions to be granted a plea deal.*	

Indigent Program?		No
Legislative Recommendation	*Create an indigent program so low-income interlock users have access to these devices. This program should be paid for by interlock vendors or non-indigent interlock users.*	

Interlock user fees (not including leasing costs of the device)	None