

Fannin County's DWI No Refusal Policy Continues During Holiday Weekend

Fannin County Criminal District Attorney Richard Glaser announced on September 4, 2015, that Fannin County's DWI No Refusal program would continue to be in effect during the Labor Day weekend. Under the No Refusal program, any driver arrested for Driving While Intoxicated will be requested to give a blood sample for analysis to determine alcohol levels. Search warrants will be sought from judges to authorize blood draws from any driver refusing to give a blood sample voluntarily. The blood is then drawn in a hospital and sent to a forensic laboratory, which analyzes the blood for alcohol, prescription drugs, and other controlled substances, such as marijuana or K2. While some counties go through the effort only for major holiday weekends, Fannin County law enforcement utilizes the program every day, all year long. Since implementing the program several years ago, Fannin County has seen the number of DWI cases taken to trial plummet, with most defendants choosing to plead guilty and accept responsibility when confronted with the lab results. "We believe the No Refusal program has resulted in more individuals being responsible and having a Designated Driver instead of getting behind the wheel after drinking," stated Glaser. "This leads to safer roads for the public and individuals avoiding the problems that come from one preventable bad decision." Additionally, the program has led to more accurate charging of DWI offenses, with the DA's office able to reject charges on individuals whose lab results come back negative. Agencies currently participating in the No Refusal program include the Texas Highway Patrol, Fannin County Sheriff's Office, Bonham Police Department, Leonard Police Department, Honey Grove Police Department, Ector Police Department, and state Game Wardens.