

COSTS & LOSSES Script 3-4-13 Length 14:30

Do not include clients names in translations, closed captions, or on line.

Titles:

Costs & Losses

Presented by

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Tilman "There was loss of a lot of money, a lot of time and the loss of being able to drink and get away with it."

Fine/court costs

Josette "You know, the fines are brutal. Paying all this money and you have nothing to show for it."

Juan "So pretty much, it ended up costing me near 5500."

Chester "Financially, I would say probably 20,000 dollars in paying for treatment and getting my driver's license back, paying for the expensive insurance."

DUI Class Counselor "Those fines are designed to be punitive. Somebody who is well to do, it's not going to affect them at all, Whereas somebody who's been struggling and not making much money, it becomes very burdensome to them and all."

Tony "I'm still paying on fines, a net of about 35,000 dollars and I'm not talking two attorneys because I've always had public defenders."

SGT "You're going to have to hire yourself an attorney to defend you and those range from anywhere from 5000 to 15,000 dollars depending on if you want to go to a jury trial."

Prosecuting Attorney "An experienced DUI attorney, one of their first responsibilities is try to evaluate the case, try to figure out on whether, you know, what is the level of risk that this particular charge presents to the person. Were there mistakes by the officer? Are there legal issues that potentially will make some or all of the evidence go away? And that happens, although I have to say, of 40,000 cases in Washington, you're probably looking at less than 1%, 2% where you're going to get a significant legal issue."

Lawyer "There are so many facets that affect a DUI. There's the courtside of it and you have to go to an arraignment and decide what you're going to do with the DUI, then there is the DMV side of it and how the DMV's going to affect your driver's license."

George "When I went to court, my attorney pretty much told me that it's a pretty solid case so I just pleaded guilty and I got my license suspended, a bunch of tickets, probation for 2 years."

A number of states have diversion programs, particularly for first time offenders, that can keep a conviction off their record.

Drug Court Judge: "So you keep up the hard work and we'll see you back here on November second."

Lawyer. "A client can go through a program, take the classes and not get the driver's license suspension. So that's a goal we're shooting for in...75% of our clients are diversion eligible."

STEVE "There was several reasons I went deferred prosecution. I figured it would keep me from drinking for six years.

Lawyer "You warn 'em and warn 'em and warn 'em and you get the exact same answer and you tell everyone, 'Listen the probationary program is a year, you can't get another DUI.' And everybody says the exact same thing . . . 'This will never happen again...this was a one-time thing...and never, never, never will I take a sip of alcohol and get in a car. I've learned my lesson,' and I couldn't put a number on it. It's a heck of a lot higher than you'd like to believe, but I'll bet maybe 10-15% of my diversions get another one the first year."

INSURANCE & YOUR CAR

Kathryn "The worst part was my State Farm Insurance, with whom I've had a car insurance forever. They wanted to cancel me and I had to write a letter and plead with them and now my insurance is twice as much."

Patrol Sergeant "Your insurance company is going to either cancel you or jack your rates way out of control. You're going to have to go get an alcohol assessment and you're going to have pay courts costs. You're going to have to go to a DUI victim's panel. You're going to have to get your car out of impound because we're going to impound it now and hold it for 12 hours."

Greg "the car was impounded and I actually wound up letting the thing go. I didn't have the money to get it out of impound. I wasn't about to borrow money for that mistake."

Lawyer "If your driving history shows up that you have a driving offense, a lot of insurers won't insure this person so your employer has to say, 'God, what are we going to give to you. We need you to drive this car and we need you to do this thing and now we are not going to be able to do this and is there someplace we put you until our insurer is ok with having you around again."

Many of the expenses of a DUI are not just those of the driver. There are also societal costs can in the tens and even hundreds of thousands of dollars . . . medical charges, absenteeism, more law enforcement personnel, and more jail costs.

Traffic Officer "That cost is just phenomenal because you're looking at anything from just your typical traffic-related non-injury DUI collision all the way up to a felony fatal collision, which could be a vehicular homicide or vehicular assault. So they talk about societal costs to society is...you know, that could be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars into the millions of dollars depending on the length of the scene."

Loss of Freedom

Greg “The loss of the driving ability is the main thing. The loss of mobility, the dependence on other people to get to and from some place, whether it’s work, having to say, “No, I can’t do that because I can’t get there.”

Kathryn “Well, for 30 days I had to get rides from everybody and there’s quite a few times I ended up walking places.”

Ryan “I’m looking at 10 years before I get my license back now. I mean, my kids are going to be practically having to drive me around until I get my license back.”

Tilman “I’m required to have a breathalyzer machine in my car for 10 years and to me I was very happy to have that knowing that if I were to relapse, my car would not take me anywhere.”

Tilman in Car: “I have to blow at a certain rate and hum at the same time in order to pass to get my machine to make sure I haven’t drank while I’m starting to drive the car.”

Losses at Work

Claudia “As a result of my arrest, because of DH policy, they had to let me go even though my employer wrote letters to keep me. My alcohol had not interfered with my job at all. I was a functioning alcoholic. Because of that loss of job, I lost my car. I lost the place I lived. I lost relationships. Basically, I was homeless sleeping on my daughter’s couch.”

Tom “It’s a condition of employment to have a valid driver’s license so if you lose your license, then you can lose your job.”

Josette: “Yeah. It makes trying to work very hard. You know, being able to...the buses only run around here until a certain time, not on the weekends. Yeah, it makes it really hard. You have to depend on your family.”

Marquis: “The first few times I was able to get out quick so I never actually lost my job . The last time, the last DUI, I spent a year in jail.”

Many of the losses are from a combination of the DUI and long-term alcohol abuse.

DARIN “Well, on those two DWI’s, I lost my job after time because I was drinking all the time, starting to be late.

CLAUDIA “In the last 2 weeks, have gotten a job at FTD at a call center and got a little apartment and I’m starting to get my life back together. I don’t know how I’m going to be able to work with children, which is why I went to school because DH policy mandates that I won’t work with kids for 5 years.”

Family & Friends

Girl “The worst part is my dad watched it because my dad was a tow truck driver and he watched me get arrested and it was humiliating that my family had to watch me go through it.”

Marquis: "It did in fact affect my relationship, a relationship that was already rocky for all other reasons. The DUI didn't help. And I ended up . . . I'm actually at this point on the verge of getting my divorce."

Kathryn "It's quite expensive and I could have done lots of things with that money like go visit my daughter in college, which I haven't been able to do because I've been paying for all this."

Ryan "I can't go to a store to get diapers now. I can't just go get my kids something to eat. Christmas time, I'm buying taxis so my wife doesn't know what I get her. I mean, it makes it so very, very difficult."

Claudia "I've destroyed a lot of relationships and some are not repairable. Unfortunately, one of them is my own daughter and it's true. First, I had to heal myself before I could find healing in my relationships with others."

Joe "It cost me a job, it cost me a relationship, it cost me a place to live, it cost me a relationship with my kids, it cost me a lot. It's a heavy toll. It didn't happen all at once."

Girl "I actually know after getting the DUI, I look forward to going home to my daughter and my son and watching them grow up. Cuz, who knows. If I would have killed myself, I wouldn't be watching them grow up. They'd be growing up without me."

OTHER PEOPLE'S FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

Tilman "I went to a victim's panel for the very first time and I went early and I started to chat with the lady who was there running the books and she told me about her son being killed by a drunk driver, then her other son drinking over the loss of his brother and him getting in a car accident and killing himself."

Traffic Sargeant "We just had a gentleman that killed two high schoolers a couple of days before graduation a couple of years back. I don't know if you heard about it. They broke down on the side of the freeway. He ran into them, 60 miles an hour, as they sat on the side of the road, killed them both. He was a pretty wealthy guy and he said it came down to a 23 dollar decision for him. He could have taken a cab from the restaurant he was drinking at. It would have cost him 23 bucks to get home."

HEALTH

CHESTER "My head was cut open. It smashed my leg. I had to have a brace on that for about a year. Smashed my arm. Was incapacitated, ended up having to go live with my parents and have them take care of me. Of course, I continued to drink even after that."

GREG2 "And I just literally would sit in a chair like this for days in front of a TV because I hurt so bad. I mean I can't even describe...well you probably know...I don't know if either one of you are alcoholic, but my head and my body hurt so bad that I could barely walk."

Besides the physical damage from automobile accidents, the biggest health effects come from the chronic use of the alcohol and drugs.

Darin "What got me into treatment this time is I have to quit. My health right now . . . my liver is going. I have hep C and it just costed me another relationship with my wife."

Stephen "I have a heart condition because of alcohol. I have diabetes. I have hep C because of drugs. This ankle injury I got drunk...I fell down stairs. ."

Why do I feel like this?

Steve "As far as moral values and feeling good about myself and all that stuff...I was pretty well bankrupt. Life didn't have much meaning. I was fooling around on my wife constantly. My kids barely got to see me, so I wasn't much of a human being."

Greg "I wasn't ashamed or anything like that or embarrassed to be seen on this busy highway, doing the tests and getting the cuffs slapped on. My mind was reeling from the fact that this was happening and I'm going to be in the system now and this is something that is going to affect me for years to come."

Greg 2 "And then of course I felt really ashamed. felt terrible, you know, in the back of the car. I kept telling him, I said, "I'm so sorry. I'm not trying to hurt anybody. I was just going to visit a friend." And I felt terrible because I knew I was going to go to jail, you know, and I hated jail. I mean, I HATE, I mean the thought of being confined in a jail just about drove me nuts."

I'm Coming Back

Joe "Yeah, I've struggled. I've had my ups and downs, you know. I'm feeling good about my recovery right now. I'm trying to go one day at a time. I don't know what's going to happen tomorrow but I know that I'm sober today."

Claudia "As I get my life back together and get myself under control, I will look into the options of working in the educational field....I ruined my life and all I can do is be thankful that I didn't kill somebody else or ruin somebody else's life as more than I already did."

CREDITS