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**Being prepared for the holiday season means more than having your shopping done.**

**Jasper, GA - December, 20, 2010** - Everyone loves the holiday season because it is the time to eat, drink and be merry but you need to be careful if you want to stay safe. With everyone out visiting relatives and driving from place to place it can lead to traffic tickets and even DUI arrests. Reports show that in 2009 there were over 26,982 DUI arrests in Georgia and 50% of those occurred over the holidays.

If you are going to be traveling this holiday season then you should remember the following tips:

- If you register as .08 or above in Georgia then you are officially "Drunk" and can be convicted of DUI. You can still be convicted of DUI when you are below that limit but the police will have to gather additional evidence to prove their case.
- If the officer asks you to take a breath or blood test then you should agree to it. You can refuse to take the test but your license will immediately be suspended so it is better to cooperate.
- If the police have someone pulled over onto the right side of the road, the law says that you have to change lanes to the left side. If traffic is too heavy for you to change lanes then you are allowed to slow down instead.
- The most important factor in a DUI conviction is the "probable cause". The police can not just pull you over for suspected DUI. They have to first see evidence like erratic driving, speeding or some other "probable cause" to pull you over.
- Do not argue with the officer at the scene or admit to anything. If you believe that you were stopped in error then it is better to fight the ticket after you have contacted an attorney

"Traffic tickets and DUI arrests always spike over Christmas and New Years Eve" comments James Johnson, Jasper city prosecutor and private practice attorney. "It is unfortunate" observes Johnson, "Many people can not afford to pay the fines and penalties so soon after Christmas."

James Johnson started the practice of law in 1994. Over his 15 year long history as a defense attorney James has handled a multitude of cases involving DUI Defense, Speeding Ticket Defense, Divorce, Child Support, Child Custody, Incorporations, Wills, Power of Attorney and Living Wills.

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