

## **Mind how you go – Christmas warning from Warrington solicitors**

Mind how you go this Christmas – this is the advice from Gary Heaven, criminal partner at Warrington law firm Forshaw Davies Ridgway (FDR).

He has issued a seasonal reminder to local residents to take care when they step behind the wheel of a vehicle over the Christmas holiday period – and avoid the pain and suffering of getting it wrong.

Drink driving, using a mobile phone at the wheel or even failing to scrape your car windscreen properly can all lead to hefty fines or even driving bans.

He said: “People understandably want to let their hair down over the Christmas break but a little thought can stop lives being destroyed and keep people and cars safe. Despite the numerous drink drive campaigns, a small minority of people are still prepared to risk their own and other people’s lives by driving after taking alcohol or drugs.

“And many people, who consider themselves responsible drinkers, are not aware they could still be over the limit when driving the morning after a heavy night’s drinking. Seven per cent of road accidents are caused by people under the influence of drink or drugs. Even with a small amount in your bloodstream your judgement is impaired, so the only completely safe limit is nothing. It’s just not worth taking the risk. And if you do get caught you face a hefty fine and an automatic driving ban.

“Chatting about Christmas arrangements could also land you in hot water too. Mobile phones are a major distraction and some people still take risks when the mobile rings while they’re driving. Unless you use a hand-free kit, you’re breaking the law by using the phone.

“And as well as being clear in the head when you start up the car engine, make sure the visibility through your car windows is not obstructed either. With more freezing temperatures on the way, it’s a good time to remind people that it’s illegal to drive with restricted vision. Bad driving caused by not defrosting your windscreen properly could land you with a fine of up to £1,000. Hopefully with a little care, we can all enjoy a trouble-free Christmas.”

For more information, please contact Gary Heaven at Forshaws Davies Ridgway on 01925 230000 or visit the website [www.fdrllaw.co.uk](http://www.fdrllaw.co.uk).

#### **EDITOR’S NOTES:**

**For further information, please contact Gary Heaven at Forshaws Davies Ridgway on 01925 23000 or by email at [gary.heaven@fdrllaw.co.uk](mailto:gary.heaven@fdrllaw.co.uk).**

#### **About Forshaws Davies Ridgway LLP (FDR)**

- FDR is a full service legal practice with five offices in Cheshire and Warrington
- 18 Partners
- Over 120 staff
- Top 15 practice in NW
- Top 200 practice in England & Wales
- Mortgage Strategy Awards 2009 & 2010 ‘Best Conveyancer’ Runner Up
- Services include: Commercial Law, Conveyancing, Criminal, Family, Litigation, Wills & Probate

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