

# Your Rights For a Speedy Trial: *DWI Edition*

## What is a Speedy Trial?

In Arkansas, if you are charged with a DWI or other misdemeanor, the state must bring you to trial within 12 months from the date of your arrest or your initial court appearance. If this timeframe is exceeded without valid reasons, your case could potentially be dismissed.

## What Can Delay a Speedy Trial?

1. Overloaded Court Dockets – Arkansas courts can be busy, and a heavy caseload can cause unavoidable delays.
2. Prosecutorial Delays – Sometimes, the prosecution may need more time to gather evidence, call witnesses, or handle administrative issues.
3. Defense Requests – Defendants may also request delays for various reasons, such as needing more time to prepare their defense or to negotiate plea deals.



**Harry Warden**

**Experienced  
DWI Attorney  
in Arkansas**

## What if my Right to Speedy Trial is Violated?

Courts will evaluate several factors to determine if your right has been violated, including:

- The length of the delay.
- The reason for the delay.
- Whether you, as the defendant, asserted your right to a speedy trial.
- Whether the delay caused prejudice or harm to your defense.

**More Information**

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