

User Report

-Proof of sober-

■ Personal use

How to prevent drunk driving If you drink alcohol, you will be mechanically unable to drive.

We spoke to families who had alcohol interlock devices installed in their personal cars.

The person who was asked to have it installed was a son who was worried about his 81-year-old father who was drinking and driving. In the same way, he spoke candidly about the background and struggles leading up to the introduction of the system, hoping that it would be helpful for those who are concerned about the drinking problems of family members and people close to them.

Equipment used

ALC-ZERO II



my father was an alcoholic

My father is 81 years old.

He worked in construction until 65 years old, and continued as a part-time worker until 77 years old. He has been drinking alcohol for a long time, but after he quit his job. He had been drinking all the time and getting more seriously drinking day by day. My father has a kind of heart disease and has been hospitalized three times due to arrhythmia. He stops drinking alcohol temporarily after being discharged from the hospital under the guidance of his doctor. But he starts drinking alcohol just after being well. Then, my mother contacted me and asked me to tell him strongly "Do not driving after drinking", because she actually saw couple of times his driving out after drinking alcohol. When my sister or I warn him, he instantly say, "I understand." However, there is no actual action involved. No matter who warned him, he wouldn't stop drinking, or rather, he couldn't stop drinking, so I had a suspect that my father was an alcoholic.

When I researched alcoholism, I found that my father's behavior matched the symptoms of alcoholism. From then on, I has been much worry about focus on "stop drunk driving" rather than persuade to stop drinking alcohol.



『please arrest my father』

The first thing I did was to contact the police and say, "My father is driving with alcohol, so I want you to arrest him immediately. If possible, I would like you to take up his driver's license or disable. A police officer then replied, "We can't arrest someone for drunk driving unless he is currently on crime if front of us. We think that age like 77 years, why does not he put his driver license back to , please talk with sufficiently in family members" They didn't pay any attention to our matter and didn't give us any further advice.

Then, I next contacted the public health center and asked that I have a serious trouble "repeatedly drunk driving by my father. What could we do or what would we have public services?" However, the public health center said, "It may be difficult at that age. Does your father have a intention to stop drinking? Even if family members want him to have medical services for alcoholism, anyone can not forcel him to do so. The person does not have that intention." It becomes a human rights issue. When I asked, "If this situation left as it is, drunk driving may cause harm to others, is it still not possible to treat this addict?" The answer was, "The public health center cannot respond solely to a request only from the family without that person". After all I realized that no matter who I contacted with serious trouble of my family, no one would be sympathetic to us or even give me advice.



Now in my country Japan, current vertically divided government has a stance of not doing work outside its jurisdiction and not intervening unless something happens, so problems such as alcoholism, drunk driving, and driving by the elderly are complicated. I felt discouraged and troubled because I felt that there was no way to resolve the issues involved, and that there was no place to turn.

I don't think the number of addicts would increase if addicts and their families could always talk about quitting drinking. I was also worried about my father's health, but I also couldn't help but worry every day about the possibility of him getting into a drunk driving accident and kill someone. I also fully aware that if someone killed by my father, our family would be blamed for neglecting my father. However, any kind of public solutions were all closed and we were really stuck in all directions.

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Accidents involving the elderly are a problem in urban areas.

My father was selfish person. He says, "Accidents involving the elderly are a city thing. In a rural area like here, where there are no people or cars, accidents won't happen. Even if they drink and drive, it's only a small amount, so it's OK." When I try to discuss about drunk driving, but he never be serious with drunk driving at all with replacing into a elderly driving issue.

Besides, my father with Alcoholic lies so much. My whole family (my mother, sister, and I) told him to stop drinking strongly, he tells a lie that he does not drink and finally drinking in secret. By that time, my father had been rejected all words from families. Even so, I repeatedly warned him not to drink alcohol and not to drive with drinking alcohol but one day we finally got into a serious fight and was told not to come to my house again, which worsened our relationship. It has become difficult to do anything.

I think If father continue to drink and drive, we will have no choice but to have his car repossessed. However, life in the countryside is very inconvenient without a car. The nearest convenience store is 1km away, and it's 5km to get into town. Also, actually father is old, it may be natural that he doesn't understand why he drink as much as he wants to drink. In the worst case, I could take away his driver's licenses and prevent him from driving, but since driving a car is directly connected to their daily life. I fear and curious about that losing their car and life without going outside by a car could lead to dementia. I suggested that he take a taxi and I would pay for it, but he said he didn't want to spend money on it and he strongly refused to accept that idea.



Know about alcohol interlock

On February 26, 2023, I was anxious about my father's drunk driving and how we would react to this serious situation. So while I was doing some research, I found a company which manufacturing "Alcohol interlock devices" Tokai-Denshi inc". I immediately contacted Tokai-Denshi. They kindly listened to my story. But when I tried to provide information about vehicle and installation to Tokai-Denshi I got into a serious argument with my father. My father strongly objected to install alcohol interlock device. So I had no choice and once stop to realize this idea. But I never give up to install alcohol interlock device on his car. A year later, I was able to talk to my father again.

At first, anyway, I asked " please return your drivers license back to police considering your age ", He understood returning driver license once. But one day when he talked with his friend as same as old with him, she said (she is a his karaoke friend with good and bad time) " Why are you giving it back?" you are still young and can drive, so it's a waste, isn't it?" That talk changed his mind and he told that he wouldn't give his license back until next license updating. I told my father, "If you're going to drive, please stop drinking!" Don't stop drinking and drive a car! If so, definitely install an alcohol interlock! " I begged. That's when my father finally listened to me about the alcohol interlock.

It wasn't until February 2024, one year since I first contacted Tokai-Denshi inc, that I was able to install the demo machine I had always wanted.

Since my father installed an alcohol interlock, he seems to have refrained from drinking on days when he has to drive. However, my fathers' alcohol consumption has not decreased. He should have stopped drinking when go to hospital, but there are no days without alcohol.



Effect of alcohol interlock

At the beginning of installed an alcohol interlock, my father complained about how troublesome it was to use. I think he was probably frustrated because there were many times when alcohol was detected, the engine wouldn't start, and he couldn't ride. He showed some resistance several times, but he have no intention of removing it himself, so he has been reluctantly using it.

It seems there were several times when he couldn't drive no matter how many times he tried a day, but he was aware of under the influence of alcohol and was convinced that there was nothing he could do about alcohol interlock function. In the past, when he went to karaoke, I was worried because he couldn't tell me if he was drinking alcohol. But now I am now in relief of his going out driving with peace of mind because it may be possible to cheat by delivering someone's breath, but I don't think my father has the wisdom to do kind of cheat. I once requested Tokai-Denshi to show me the facial photo data that was being measured, but all of them were of my father.

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My father is an elderly person. after that

I hear that elderly people often continue to drive even after surrendering their license. I feel sorry for people whose only connection to society is through a car (driver's license), and whose life is limited to places they can walk to. Moreover, when living in the countryside, a car is still important. It is not realistic to leave your familiar place and move to a city with well-developed transportation facilities as you get older. I think the best way is to mechanically disable driving after drinking.

To be honest, my father finds the alcohol interlock to be a nuisance. It also seems like something he wants to keep hidden, not telling his neighbors or friends. I think that only our family, other than my father, is happy with the installation of the alcohol interlock. However, I no longer naggingly warn my father that he drinks too much, and I no longer try to get him to stop drinking, so I feel that my father's stress has eased a little in that respect.

The next license renewal will be in one and a half years. Considering his age, I would like to first monitor whether he can drive safely, and then decide whether to let him drive with the condition that he continues to wear the interlock.



Peace of mind by installing an alcohol interlock

I feel that the alcohol interlock system, which physically prevents drunk driving, is an ally for families. This is a device that allows my father, who is otherwise healthy except for his drinking problem, to continue driving. It can also relieve the anxiety of those watching. However, looking back at the problems in our family's case, I think that only a few people are able to actually install alcohol interlock. Since it is an effective device for preventing drunk driving, families of addicts would like to put car makers install it as standard, although installation of alcohol interlock may be have various issues and bars.

Tokai-Denshi Website【alcohol interlock.com】
<https://alcohol-interlock.com/>

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In urban areas, one vehicle per family may be sufficient, but in rural areas, one vehicle per person is the norm. As infrastructure advances and people in rural areas find it easier to get around, I think more people will consider surrendering their driver's licenses. Also, as a social issue, I would like people to stop drinking alcoholic beverages with alcohol content of 9% alcohol, etc., which can encourage addicts to drink.

When I was researching addiction, there was a time when I struggled to get my father to stop drinking, but I no longer feel that way. I think it's fine for him to drink if he want to. There are probably many people who are worried like me. If someone in your family likes to drink and drive, you should install an alcohol interlock. This is because it not only makes the person feel safe, but also the people around them, including themselves. If there is a risk that the road traffic rules cannot be followed properly, I think it is necessary to rely on a machine and find a way to convince the person to install the alcohol interlock.



Further hope for alcohol interlock

I think that purpose of installing an alcohol interlock for Company drivers and individual drivers is different. If you are wearing it for personal use, like our family, you can immediately see the data stored in the alcohol interlock, such as an elderly monitoring device, and you can observe driving conditions etc. at any time. I'm glad that happens. Currently, in order to view the data, you need to purchase a dedicated app, which costs hundreds of thousands of dollars, so it is a little out of reach for individuals to buy it. Tokai Denshi's alcohol interlock was originally intended for business use by corporations, and it seems that it is designed for administrators, but in the future, a way to easily view data for personal use will be added. I hope that.

Cooperation with coverage

As a means of protecting your family,
A family in Mie Prefecture that introduced an alcohol interlock system



Tokai-Denshi official YouTube 【Introduction example】
Story of a family installing an alcohol interlock 【ALC-ZEROII】
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CcXm5jBgeTQ>