

DATA SHARING SPOTLIGHT

TEXAS U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

WHO

The Texas Hold'em Initiative is a partnership between U.S. Border Patrol and the Texas Department of Public Safety to report felony convictions of individuals with a commercial driver's license to the State Driver's License Agency (SDLA).

WHAT

The Initiative set out to increase communication and share information between law enforcement agencies and transportation stakeholders to report felony convictions of individuals who hold a commercial driver's license. The goal of the initiative is to reduce human and illegal contraband smuggling in commercial vehicles, i.e. tractor trailers, buses and freight carriers. Because the interactions with law enforcement are at the border, the program focuses on U.S. District Court felony convictions of smuggling while operating a motor vehicle (U.S.C. Section 1324).

WHY

Enforcing a stricter penalty than required by the federal regulations, a person who holds a commercial driver's license in Texas is disqualified from holding a CDL for life if convicted of using a motor vehicle in the commission of a felony "that involves the transportation, concealment, or harboring of an alien."^[1] However, convictions must be reported to the State Driver's License Agency for the disqualification to be posted to the driver's record.

Reporting these felony convictions to the SDLA keeps drivers out of commercial vehicles and protects the victims of human smuggling, which ultimately keeps our roads safer.

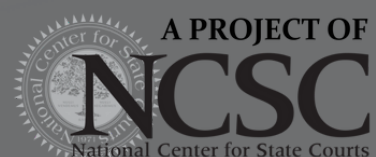
^[1] 7 Texas Transportation Code §522.081

HOW

Three Texas Hold'em Initiative agents identify U.S. District Court cases where the driver holds a commercial driver's license or a commercial motor vehicle was involved in the commission of a felony. The team completes and submits the required forms to the prosecutor's office. Then, a team member tracks the case through electronic access to case files as it progresses. If a conviction is entered, the Texas Hold'em agents send the necessary documents to the Department of Public Safety/ State Driver's License Agency. Because of the work of these agents, the conviction is reported to the SDLA and the commercial driver's licenses are suspended for life. Without report to the SDLA, a driver may be able to secure a CDL in another state, putting unsafe drivers back on the road.

STATS

Since the inception of the initiative in June 2008, the team's tracking and reporting has canceled 847 commercial drivers' licenses. As of July, the initiative had reported 52 convictions in Fiscal Year 2023 alone.



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