

# Standardized Field Sobriety Tests

Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST's) are tests designed to determine whether someone has a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of over .08%. In order to be reliable, Standardized Field Sobriety Tests must be administered in the manner they were validated. The problem is that these tests were validated in an office setting where those administering the tests had all the instructions, demonstrations, and scoring information right in front of them.

In reality, these tests are not administered (generally) in an office setting.

- They are often administered in the field where there are all sorts of interfering factors like wind, ice, snow, uneven pavement, loose gravel, flashing lights, and passing vehicles.
- They are administered by officers who may have been trained on how to administer these tests many years ago, who may have inadvertently made mistakes in their administration by leaving out important instructions, demonstrations, and scoring details.
- They fail to take into consideration age, weight, and the disabilities of those being tested.

I've seen many cases where:

- Environmental factors not intoxication caused the subject to fail
- Officers failed to remember the standardized instructions
- Officers failed to demonstrate things correctly
- Officers scored the tests incorrectly

***This is not legal advice and is for general informational purposes only. Please consult a lawyer if you're charged with a DWI.***

*Tom Anelli & Associates is a statewide DWI defense practice focusing on solely on DWI Defense matters. Tom Anelli holds certifications in the Science of Evidential Breath Alcohol Testing, and is factory trained on the breath testing instrument most used by local law enforcement. He is also a NHTSA Certified Practitioner and Instructor in Standardized Field Sobriety Testing.*

*Further, Tom is the author of the New York Edition of The DUI Book: A Citizen's Guide to Understanding DWI – DWI Litigation in America. Tom has appeared nationally as a regular legal commentator on TruTV.*

*He earned his B.A. at Syracuse University and his Juris Doctor at St. Thomas University School of Law before earning admission to the New York State Bar.*

*Please remember you can call Tom Anelli 24/7 at 1-800-DWI-1100 or [www.dwitom.com](http://www.dwitom.com)*