

## **Repeated driving offender's future looms with jail time**

A Meadow Heights man pleaded guilty to several serious driving charges during his hearing at the County Court of Victoria and currently faces prison and a large fine.

On the 26th of April 2022, Tuncay Ozden was caught with a blood alcohol content of 0.125% at 6:20 AM in the morning nearly three times the legal limit, recorded by Victorian Police.

Mr Ozden is currently being charged with drunk driving, driving with a disqualified licence, and careless driving.

Mr Ozden pleaded guilty to the matter with an appeal for the penalty of \$600 but did not appeal the current sentence of one month.

The appeal first went to the Broadmeadows Magistrates Court on the 4th of June 2024 where Mr Ozden successfully requested an adjournment to settle his affairs.

He was put before Judge Kate Hawkins at 10:30 AM on the 26th of September at the County Court of Victoria in Melbourne.

Representing himself in court during the appeal was due to personal financial struggles.

Mr Ozden's pleading guilty to the charges will assist in reducing the sentencing for his prison term but the fine as it stands remains \$600 which he is currently appealing.

Prior driving records of Mr Ozden display 11 prior driving infringements ranging from driving without a licence, drunk driving and careless driving.

Mitigating factors include Mr Ozden's current circumstantial personal issues affecting his ability to provide for his family with the current punishment of a fine and prison sentence.

Judge Hawkins said that she is "Open to the court to punish you more harshly" referring to his previous record and the given punishment currently standing at one month in prison and the \$600 fine.

Judge Hawkins strongly urged Mr Ozden to seek a lawyer for his appeal either through the Victorian Legal Aid services.

Issues likely to arise for Mr Ozden include the fact that Victorian Legal Aid won't commonly represent driving matters such as this particular case.

Mr Ozden successfully requested an adjournment moving the appeal back where it will be heard again on the 29th of October at 9:30 AM at the County Court of Victoria.

Mr Ozden currently on bail will seek legal help and has been given time by Judge Hawkins before his appeal later this October.