

Repeat offender racks up sixth drink-driving conviction

Jennifer Eder



RICKY WILSON/STUFF

██████████, 46, was caught drink-driving in Seddon, south Marlborough, after agreeing to help out his wife.

A man racking up his sixth drink-driving conviction says only got behind the wheel to help out his wife.

██████████, 46, was pulled over on Redwood St in Seddon about 9.43pm on June 22.

He gave a breath test result of 646 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath. The legal limit is 250mcg.

When spoken to by police, ██████████ said he had eight or nine beers before driving.

He admitted a charge of drink-driving for the third or subsequent time at the Blenheim District Court on Tuesday.

His lawyer Samira Taghavi said ██████████' five prior convictions for drink-driving were between 1992 and 2010, so it had been several years since his last offence.

He was a fulltime truck driver who worked five or six days a week, but was on his day off when the offending happened, Taghavi said.

"He was drinking at home and doing chores around the house, and his wife needed help closing the bar where she works, so he drove to help her," Taghavi said.

"There was no bad driving, just stupidity. He didn't intend to drive initially."

██████ would struggle to do community work as he often only had one day off work a week, but was willing to manage whatever penalty awaited him, Taghavi said.

He hoped to get a limited licence so he could still drive for work, she said.

But Judge David Ruth said ██████ could have "an uphill battle" getting such a licence, considering his list of prior convictions.

He convicted ██████ and sentenced him to 100 hours' community work, and disqualified him from driving for 12 months and a day.

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