Monday morning on Mockingbird Lane looks the same as it did last week, except the drive to your job near Love Field now depends on what the State of Texas decides about your license. After a DWI arrest in Dallas, a suspension can land well before the criminal case is resolved, and for people who live and work on the north side that raises an immediate practical problem. Dallas DWI Lawyers helps clients deal with it through the ALR hearing process and, where the law allows, an occupational driver license that keeps them legally behind the wheel. Most Texas DWI arrests start two cases at once. The criminal charge moves through the Dallas County courts, while the license case is a separate civil matter handled by the Department of Public Safety, with hearings before the State Office of Administrative Hearings. You generally have 15 days from receiving notice of suspension to request that ALR hearing. Miss the window and the suspension usually takes effect without any challenge. For a first refusal, the suspension is at least 180 days. For drivers 21 and older who gave a breath or blood sample over the limit, it is at least 90 days. Neither one requires a conviction, which surprises a lot of people. An occupational driver license, sometimes called an essential need license, can allow driving for work, school and other essential tasks while a suspension is in place. The court that grants it may set limits on when and why you drive, so the petition has to describe your actual routine accurately. Jess Gambrell, who leads the firm's Dallas office, spent about ten years in logistics before going to law school, and the team looks closely at schedules, routes and job duties when putting a request together. Spanish, Russian and Ukrainian are spoken in the office, which helps families who want every detail explained in their first language.

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The north side has its own commuting patterns, and a good petition reflects them. A nurse working nights at Parkland or UT Southwestern in the Medical District may need permission to drive Harry Hines Blvd at hours when most people are asleep. A sales rep living in Uptown might spend half the day on the Dallas North Tollway. Someone working an early shift around Love Field could be on the road before the first trains run. A DWI defense attorney who handles these requests regularly can help you show the court why each trip matters, while the criminal defense Dallas DWI defense continues in parallel with a review of the stop, the arrest, the field sobriety tests and any breath or blood results. Waiting rarely helps with license issues, because the 15-day ALR deadline arrives quickly. Call or text Dallas DWI Lawyers at (945) 403-4331, 24/7, for a free case evaluation. You can also meet the team at the St Paul Street office in downtown Dallas, a short walk from the DART St. Paul station, to talk through your suspension, your driving needs and the steps that may keep you working while the case moves forward.

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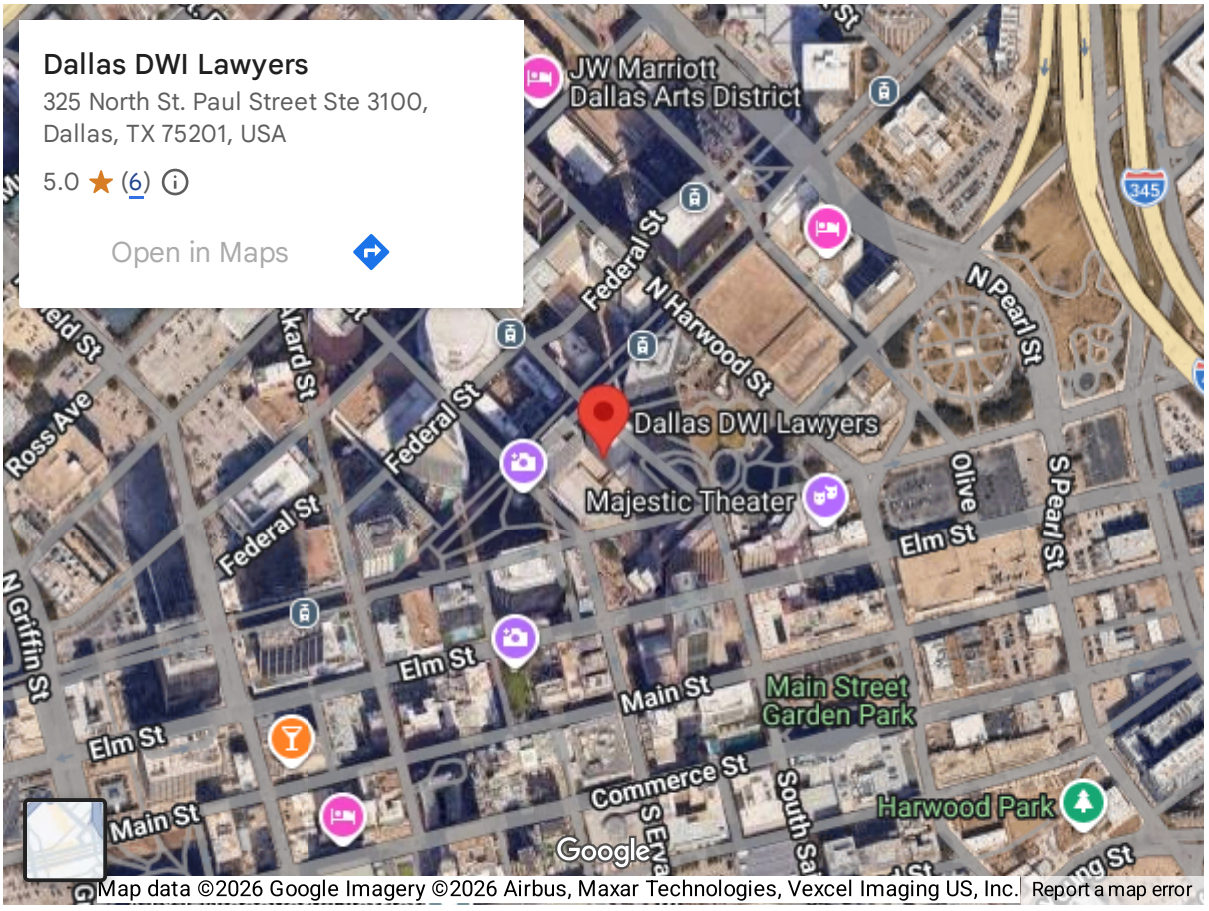

FAQ About

DWI Defense Attorney in Dallas How much is a DWI lawyer in Texas? Fees depend on whether the case is a first offense misdemeanor or a felony, whether there is an ALR hearing to fight, and whether the case goes to trial. Dallas DWI Lawyers starts with a free case evaluation so you can hear what your specific case involves before you commit to anything. Call or text (945) 403-4331 to set one up. What happens after a DWI arrest in Dallas? Most people arrested in Dallas are booked at the Lew Sterrett Justice Center and released on bond, often with conditions such as an ignition interlock. Misdemeanor DWI cases then move through the County Criminal Courts at the Frank Crowley Courts Building, while a separate license suspension case starts with DPS. The team at Dallas DWI Lawyers deals with both tracks from the first call. How long do I have to request an ALR hearing in Texas? The request must be made within 15 days of receiving notice of the license suspension, which is usually the day of the arrest. Missing that window means the suspension can take effect without a hearing. Dallas DWI Lawyers files ALR requests and represents drivers at the hearing, so call (945) 403-4331 as early as you can. Is a first DWI a felony in Texas? A standard first DWI is a Class B misdemeanor with a minimum of 72 hours and up to 180 days in jail, and a fine of up to $2,000. It becomes a Class A misdemeanor if a test shows 0.15 or more, and it can be a state jail felony if a passenger under 15 was in the car. Our downtown Dallas office on St Paul Street handles every level of these charges. Can a DWI be dismissed in Texas? Dismissals do happen, usually when the stop lacked reasonable suspicion, the arrest lacked probable cause, or the breath or blood evidence has problems. No lawyer can promise a dismissal, but Dallas DWI Lawyers prepares each case as if it is going to trial and reviews the video, reports and lab records for weak points. Should I refuse a breath test in Texas? Texas is an implied consent state, so a refusal can bring a license suspension of at least 180 days and can be mentioned at trial. Officers can also get a blood warrant, especially during Dallas County no refusal weekends. Every situation is different, so talk to a DWI defense attorney about how a refusal affects your own case. Can I still drive after a DWI arrest in Dallas? Usually yes, at least for a short time, because the suspension does not start right away and a timely ALR request can hold it off until the hearing. If a suspension does take effect, an occupational license may let you drive to work, school and essential errands. Dallas DWI Lawyers helps with both, starting with a call to (945) 403-4331. How long does a DWI stay on your record in Texas? A DWI conviction stays on your Texas criminal record permanently unless the law gives you a way to seal or clear it. Some first-offense cases may qualify for nondisclosure, and expunction is generally limited to dismissals, acquittals and no-bills. The firm can review your eligibility during a free case

evaluation. What makes a DWI a felony in Texas? A DWI becomes a felony with two prior intoxication convictions, a passenger under 15, a serious injury (intoxication assault) or a death (intoxication manslaughter). These carry prison ranges from 180 days in a state jail up to 20 years. Managing Attorney Gary L. Medlin has been Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1989. Do I need a lawyer for a first DWI in Texas? You are not required to have one, but a first DWI can still mean jail time, fines, a license suspension and a permanent record. A lawyer can challenge the stop and the testing, and may be able to pursue options such as deferred adjudication where the law allows it. Dallas DWI Lawyers answers calls and texts 24/7 at (945) 403-4331. Can a DWI be reduced to a lesser charge in Texas? In some cases, problems with the evidence lead prosecutors to offer a reduced charge such as obstructing a highway or reckless driving. Whether that is possible depends on the facts, the test results and your history. Attorneys at Dallas DWI Lawyers include former prosecutors who understand how those decisions get made in Dallas County. What is the difference between a DWI and a DUI in Texas? In Texas, DWI is the charge for adults who are intoxicated while driving, while DUI is a Class C charge for drivers under 21 with any detectable amount of alcohol. A young driver can face either charge depending on the evidence. Dallas DWI Lawyers defends underage drivers from SMU, University Park and across Dallas.