Breath test printouts at the Lew Sterrett Justice Center sometimes show a number that changes the whole case. In Texas, a first DWI is normally a Class B misdemeanor, but when the alleged alcohol concentration is 0.15 or higher, the charge moves up to a Class A misdemeanor. That jump carries a possible sentence of up to one year in jail and a fine of up to $4,000. Dallas DWI Lawyers defends drivers charged under this enhanced provision, including people stopped on the north side after an evening in Uptown, Knox Henderson or along Lower Greenville. A high number does not mean the case is over. Breath and blood results depend on equipment, procedures and the people running them, and each of those can be examined. The firm reviews how the sample was collected, how long after driving it was taken, whether the instrument and its records were in order, and how a blood sample was stored and handled before analysis. Because Texas Penal Code 49.04 defines intoxication either as 0.08 or more or as loss of normal use of mental or physical faculties, the prosecution may also lean on officer observations. That is why the defense watches the video and checks how field sobriety tests were given as well. A 0.15 allegation also changes what may be available later. Since 2019, deferred adjudication can be an option for some first DWI cases in Texas, but not where the BAC was 0.15 or higher. Ignition interlock is generally required in 0.15 cases too. Those consequences make the accuracy of the reported number a real issue, and sometimes the defense focuses on whether the evidence supports the enhanced charge at all, even if the underlying DWI allegation remains. Gary L. Medlin, the firm's founder, has been Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1989 and is a founding *DWI lawyers Dallas* member of the DUI Defense Lawyers Association.

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Class A DWI cases in Dallas County are heard in the County Criminal Courts at the Frank Crowley Courts Building on North Riverfront Blvd. Arrests come from several agencies, including Dallas Police, Texas DPS troopers on Central Expressway and the Dallas North Tollway, and Highland Park DPS on the edge of the Park Cities. Reports and video can differ from one agency to the next, and the team prepares every file as if it is going to trial. That means requesting records early and asking hard questions about every step from the initial stop to the final test result. A DWI defense attorney who has worked the prosecution side can spot gaps quickly. Kelvin M. Rodgers spent more than five years as an Assistant District Attorney in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, prosecuting felonies and DWI. A license suspension may also follow, and the ALR request has to be made within 15 days of receiving notice. To get started, call or text (945) 403-4331, 24/7, for a free case evaluation with Dallas DWI Lawyers. The office is on St Paul Street in downtown Dallas, inside the Republic Center tower near the DART St. Paul station, and the team can review your test result with you in person or by phone.

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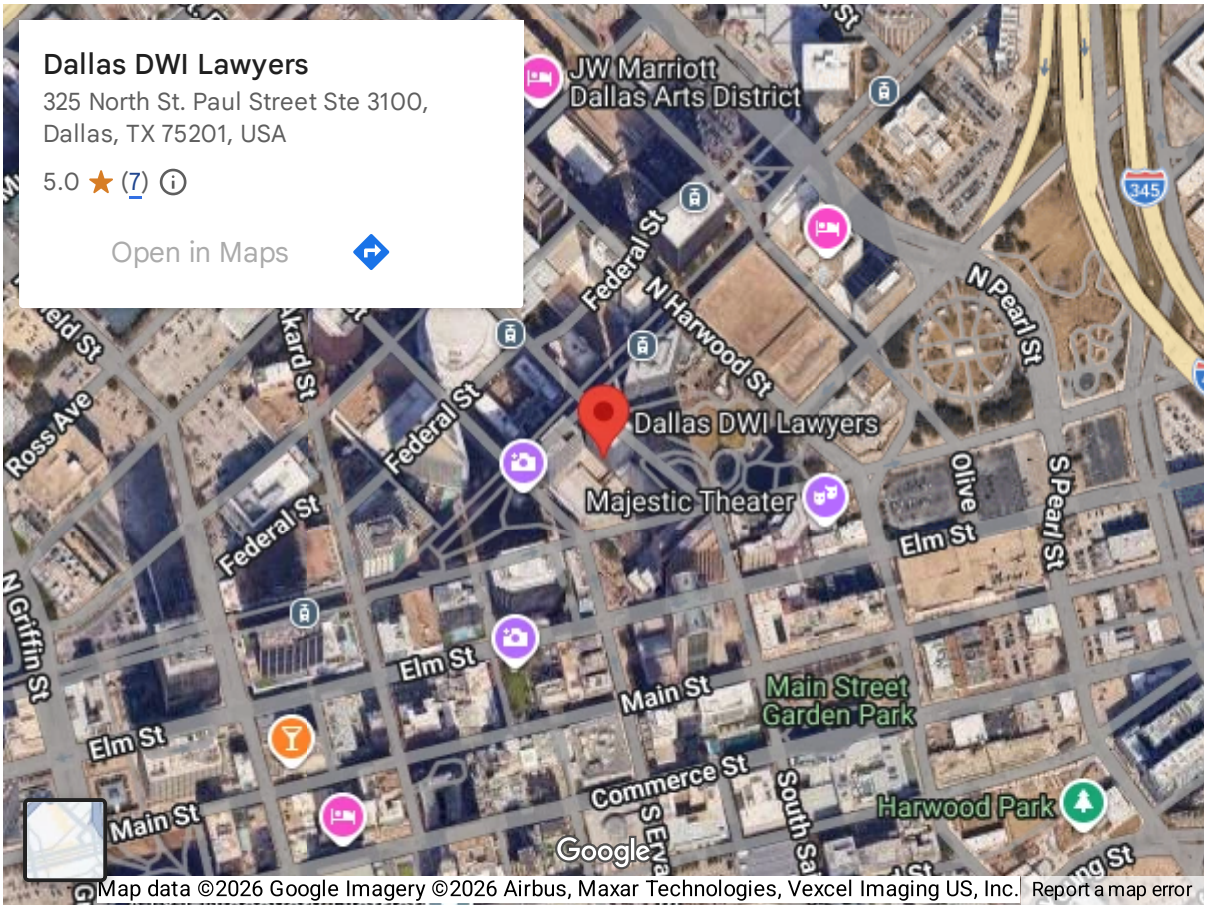

FAQ About

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.