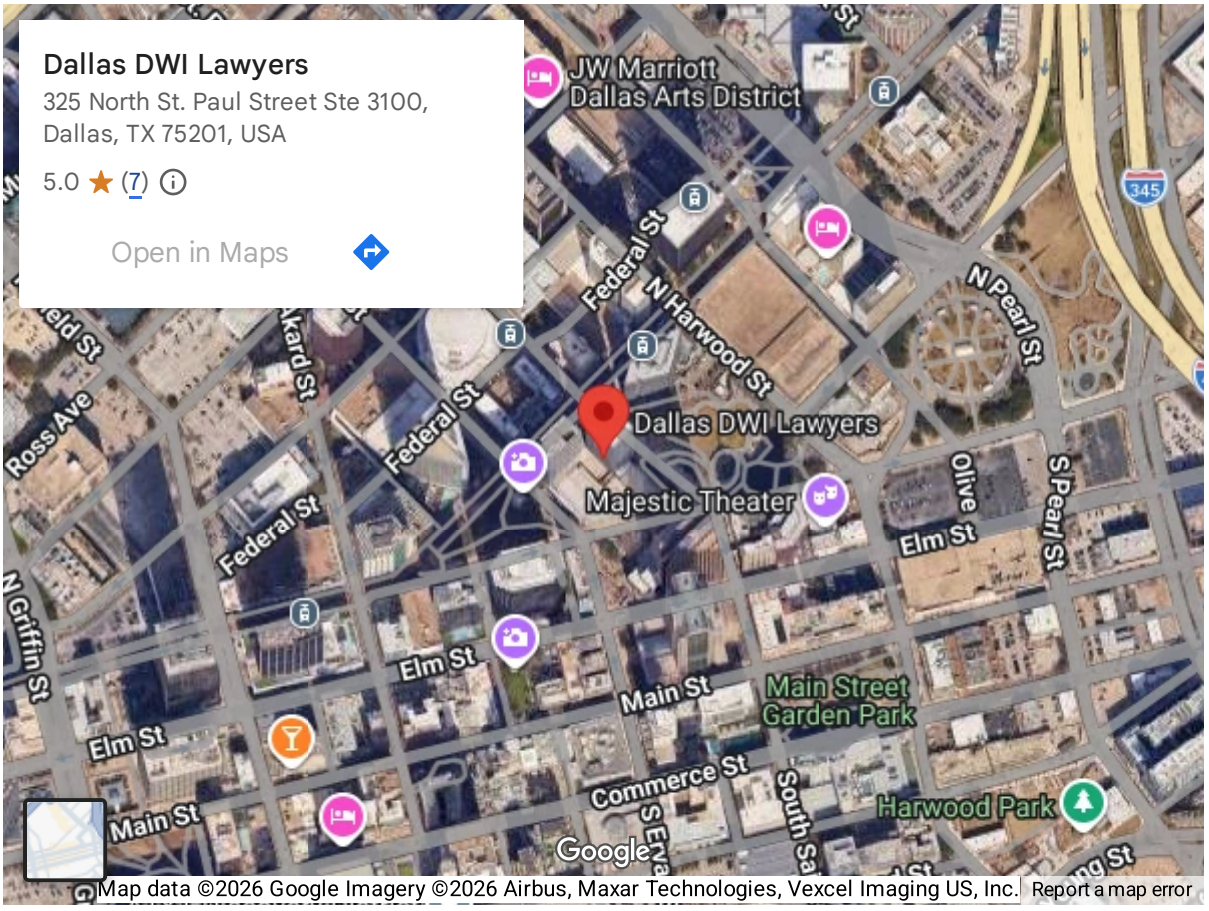
Background checks have a long memory, and for many people that worries them more than the court date itself. Clients who work at experienced DWI attorneys Dallas hospitals in the Medical District, offices in Uptown or schools in Highland Park and Preston Hollow often ask the same question within minutes of sitting down: can this be cleared later? The honest answer depends on how the case ends. Dallas DWI Lawyers gives clear guidance on expunction and nondisclosure, and on how decisions made early in a case can affect those options down the road. Expunction is the stronger remedy, and it is also the narrower one. In Texas, expunction is generally available only after a dismissal, an acquittal or a no-bill, which is when a grand jury declines to indict in a felony case. When an expunction is granted, records of the arrest are removed and the person can generally treat the arrest as if it did not happen. Because a conviction usually rules out expunction, the outcome of the criminal case is the main question. That is one reason the firm prepares every case as if it is going to trial and looks closely at the stop, the arrest, field sobriety tests and any breath or blood results. Nondisclosure works differently. An order of nondisclosure does not erase the record, but it can keep it from public view, so many private employers and landlords would not see it in a routine check. Certain government agencies can still access it. Nondisclosure may be possible for some first-offense DWI cases, and eligibility turns on details such as the BAC, the person's prior history and how the case was resolved. Since 2019, deferred adjudication has been available for some first DWI cases, though not with a BAC of 0.15 or more or for a commercial license holder. A DWI defense attorney can tell you early which of these paths may fit your facts.

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Students at SMU in University Park and young professionals living around Lower Greenville and Knox Henderson tend to have the most at stake, because a record can follow them into graduate school and job applications for years. Kelvin M. Rodgers, a Senior Associate Attorney who once served as a judicial law clerk in Shreveport and later prosecuted DWI cases in Louisiana, helps clients understand how a case result will read on paper. The firm also explains the timing, since some forms of relief cannot be requested right away. Thinking about your record now, before the case is resolved, gives you more options later. Call or text Dallas DWI Lawyers at (945) 403-4331, 24/7, for a free case evaluation. The team meets clients at the St Paul Street office in downtown Dallas, near the DART St. Paul station, and speaks Spanish, Russian and Ukrainian.

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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.