Most people picked up for drunk driving on the north side of Dallas never expected to see the inside of the Lew Sterrett Justice Center. A traffic stop on Lemmon Avenue near Love Field, or on McKinney Avenue after a night out in Uptown, can turn into a ride in the back of a patrol car, and the next several hours happen in a building on the west edge of downtown that few residents ever think about. Dallas DWI Lawyers gets calls from families sitting in the lobby or parked outside, trying to work out what is going on behind the doors and when their person will be released. Booking comes first. Officers hand the arrested driver over to jail staff, who take fingerprints and a photo, record personal property and run background checks. If the officer did not get a breath or blood sample at the scene, testing may come up here, and if the driver refused, the officer can apply for a search warrant for blood. Under Texas implied consent law in Transportation Code chapter 724, a refusal can lead to a license suspension and can be mentioned in the criminal case. The process often moves slowly because Lew Sterrett books people arrested by Dallas Police, Texas DPS troopers and the Dallas County Sheriff, along with smaller departments such as Highland Park DPS and University Park PD. After booking, a magistrate reviews the charge and sets bond. For a DWI, bond conditions are common. A magistrate may order an ignition interlock device on the person's vehicle, and that becomes much more likely with a prior DWI or an alleged BAC of 0.15 or higher. Reading those conditions carefully matters, because breaking one can put a person back in custody before the case is ever resolved. A DWI defense attorney can review them and, where there is a basis, ask the court to change conditions that make work or family life unmanageable.

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Release does not end the urgent part. Many drivers leave Lew Sterrett holding a written notice that their license will be suspended, and that notice starts a 15 day window to request an Administrative License Revocation hearing. The ALR case is a civil matter run by DPS, with hearings before the State Office of Administrative Hearings, and it is separate from the criminal charge. Miss the deadline and the suspension generally takes effect without a hearing. It also helps to stay quiet about the facts Dallas drunk driving defense on jail phones, which are generally recorded, and to write down everything you remember about the stop while it is fresh. Our team handles these first days often, and intake **Dallas DWI Lawyers** staff including Joe Tapgos and Victoria Al-Adam take calls at any hour. Spanish, Russian and Ukrainian are spoken at the office. Call or text (945) 403-4331, 24/7, for a free case evaluation. You can also meet with us at our office on North St Paul Street in downtown Dallas, a short walk from the DART St. Paul station.

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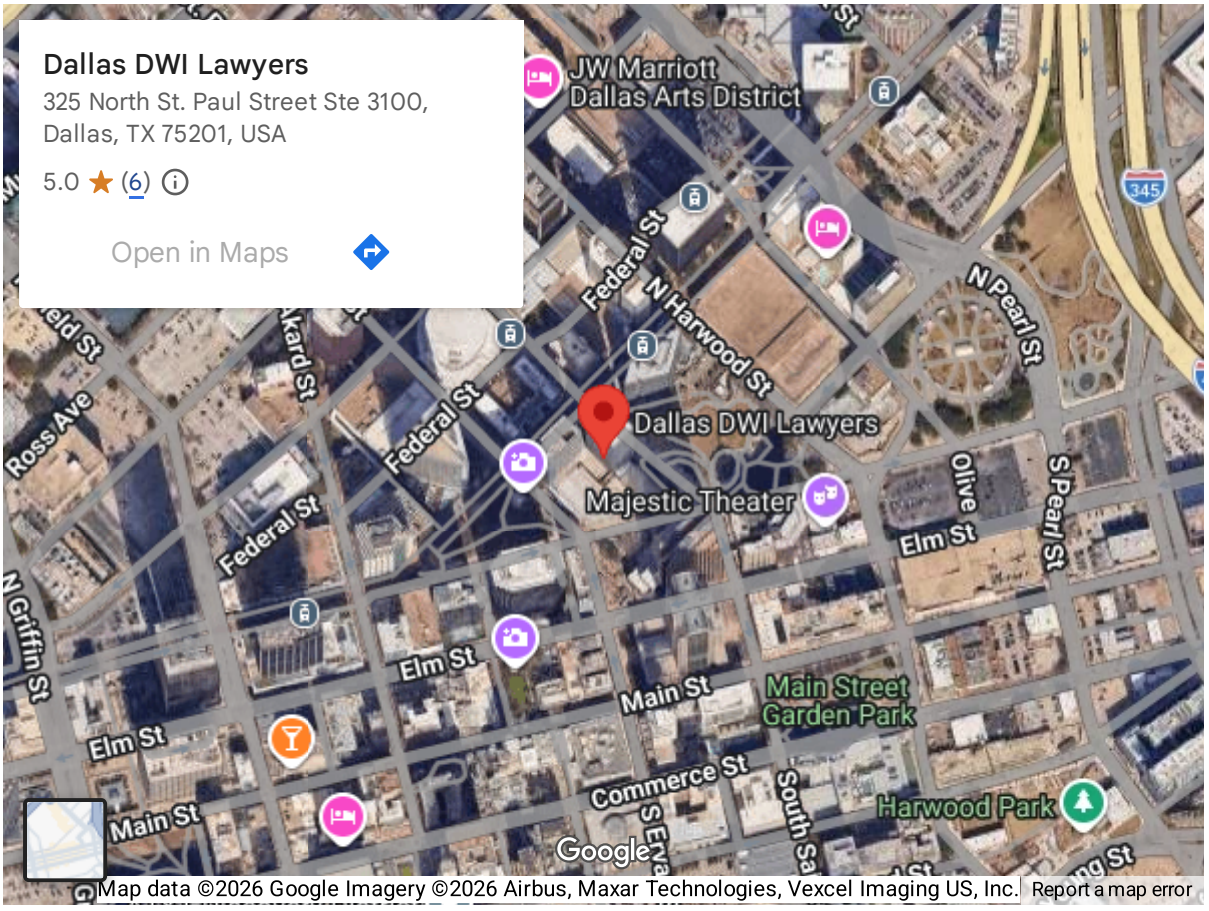

FAQ About

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.