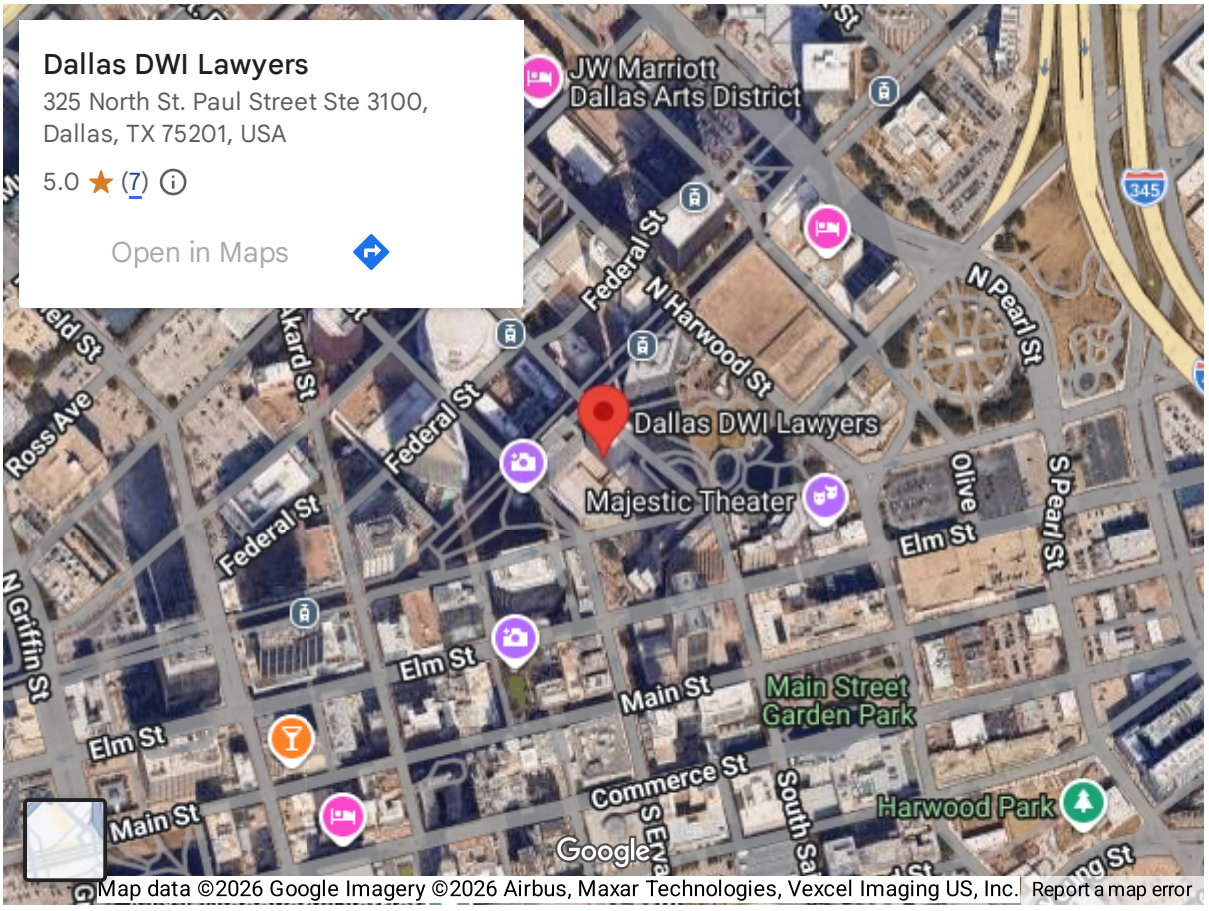
Somewhere between the arrest and the first court date, most people realize the officer kept their driver license and handed them a sheet of paper instead. That paper is the notice of suspension, and it starts a clock. For someone who lives in Uptown or works along McKinney Avenue or Cedar Springs, losing the ability to drive can mean missed shifts and a stack of expensive rideshare receipts. Dallas DWI Lawyers represents drivers at Administrative License Revocation hearings and treats the license case as seriously as the criminal charge. The ALR process is a civil case, separate from the criminal DWI. It is run by the Texas Department of Public Safety, and the hearings take place before the State Office of Administrative Hearings, known as SOAH. A hearing must be requested within 15 days of receiving the notice of suspension. Miss that deadline and the suspension generally takes effect on its own. For a first refusal to give a breath or blood specimen, the suspension is at least 180 days. For a driver 21 or older who took a test and was over the limit, it is at least 90 days.

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Requesting the hearing does more than buy time. An ALR hearing lawyer can hold DPS to its burden of proof, and the hearing can also be a chance to question the Dallas DUI and DWI lawyers arresting officer under oath, sometimes months before the criminal case gets near a trial setting. What the officer says about the stop on McKinney Avenue, the reasons for the arrest and the way a test was requested can become useful later. Under the Texas implied consent law in Transportation Code chapter 724, the warnings an officer reads about refusing a test also matter, and the firm reviews them line by line. Jess Gambrell, who leads the Dallas office, spent about ten years working in logistics before becoming a lawyer and has seen how much a lost license can disrupt someone whose living depends on driving. If a suspension does take effect, the firm can help apply for an occupational driver license, sometimes called an essential need license, which can allow driving to work, school and essential tasks. A DWI defense attorney who handles both cases at once can keep the license fight and the criminal defense pointed in the same direction. Count the days from the date on your notice and do not let the fifteenth pass. Call or text Dallas DWI Lawyers at (945) 403-4331, 24/7, for a free case evaluation. The office is at 325 North St Paul Street, Suite 3100, in downtown Dallas, a short drive or DART ride from Uptown.

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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.