Ask anyone who has been through a DWI case in Dallas County what surprised them most, and the answer is often the waiting. A driver arrested on Central Expressway near Knox Henderson, or pulled over leaving a restaurant on Lower Greenville, wants to know when this will be over. That is a fair question with no single answer. At Dallas DWI Lawyers, we tell people honestly that the timeline depends on the charge and on what the evidence shows once it comes in. The type of case sets the basic track. A first-offense misdemeanor heard in the County Criminal Courts at the Frank Crowley Courts Building usually moves on a different schedule than a felony DWI in the District Courts. Felonies, including a third DWI, intoxication assault and intoxication manslaughter, tend to involve more evidence and a grand jury step before the case moves forward. Repeat cases and those with an alleged BAC of 0.15 or more can also take longer, because more is at stake for both sides and neither is in a hurry to give ground. Evidence is often what drives the calendar. A breath test result is usually available quickly, but a blood sample has to go to a lab, and results can take time to come back. That is common after a crash where blood was drawn at a hospital like Parkland in the Medical District, or after a no refusal weekend when the lab is handling many samples at once. Video from patrol cars and body cameras also has to be requested and reviewed. A careful DWI defense attorney does not rush past this stage, because the details of the stop and the testing procedures are where problems in the State's case tend to show up. Court settings in between are often resets while discovery is completed or negotiations continue.

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Choices made in the case change the length too. A case that resolves through a negotiated agreement will usually end sooner than one set for trial. Preparing for a jury trial adds time for motions and witness preparation, and trial settings can move as the court's docket changes. We prepare every case as if it is going to trial, so clients are not boxed in later if an offer is not acceptable. Separate from all of this, the ALR license case runs on its own clock. The request for that hearing must be made within 15 days of receiving notice of suspension, long before the criminal case is anywhere near finished. Waiting is easier when you understand why it is happening and what is being done in the meantime. Call or text Dallas DWI Lawyers at (945) 403-4331, 24/7, for a free case evaluation. We can Dallas DWI Lawyers explain what the next steps are likely to look like for your case, and you can meet our team at our downtown office on North St Paul Street, near the DART St. Paul station.

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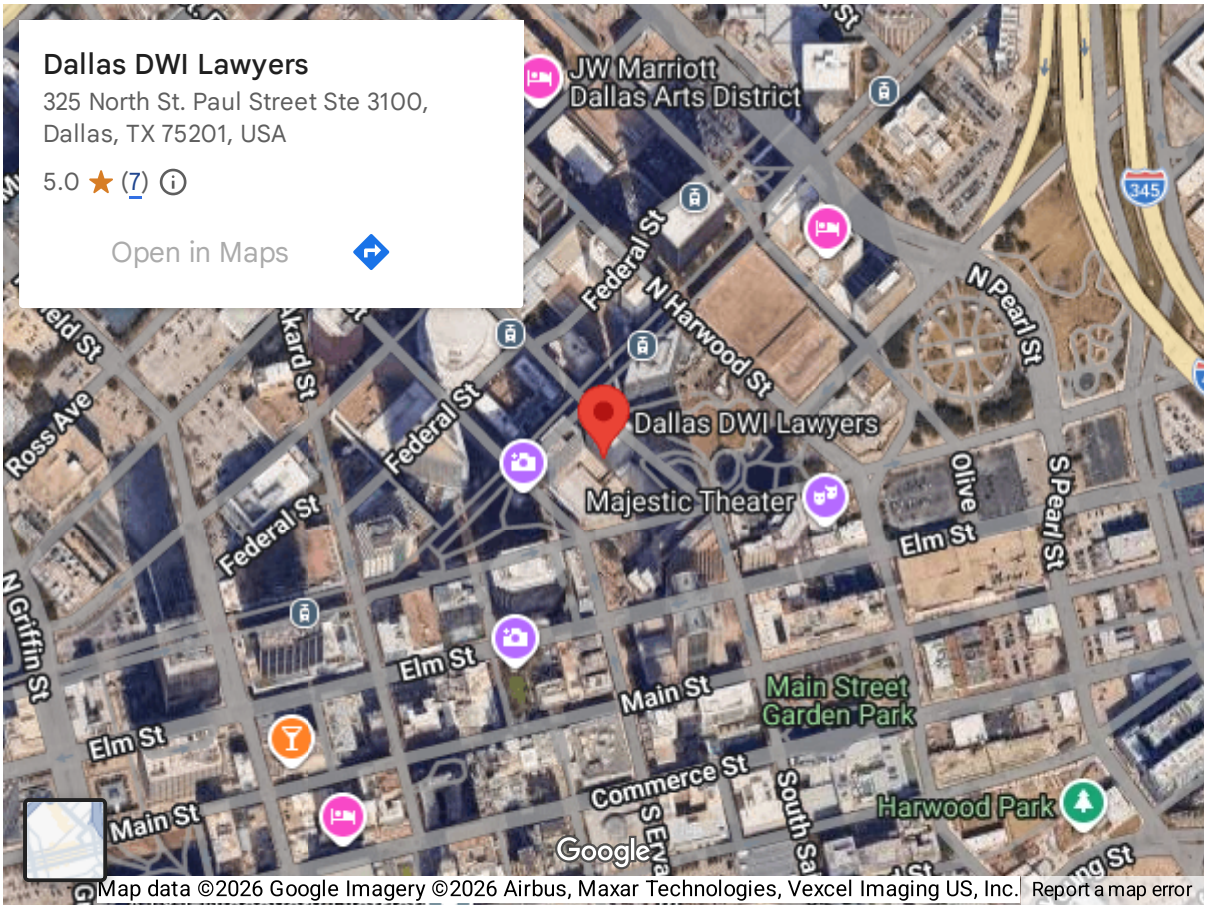

FAQ About

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.