Background checks come up everywhere in North Dallas life, from hospital jobs in the Medical District to apartment applications in Victory Park. That is why one of the most common questions Dallas DWI Lawyers hears is how long a DWI will follow someone. The answer depends on how the case ends, and the gap between outcomes can be larger than people expect. Two people arrested on the same night on Cedar Springs Road can end up with very different records five years later. A DWI conviction in Texas generally stays on a person's criminal record permanently. Texas does not automatically clear adult convictions after a set number of years, and a conviction generally cannot be expunged. A prior conviction can also be used to raise the level of a later DWI, which is how a second offense becomes a Class A misdemeanor with a 30 day minimum and a third becomes a third-degree felony with a range of 2 to 10 years in prison. For many people, the long-term record is a bigger worry Dallas DUI and DWI lawyers than the immediate penalties. There are other paths, and they work differently. Since 2019, deferred adjudication can be available for a first DWI in some cases, though not when the alleged BAC was 0.15 or higher or the person holds a commercial driver license. Some first-offense DWI cases may also qualify for an order of nondisclosure, which seals the record from most public and private background checks while leaving it visible to certain government agencies. Eligibility depends on the facts and on meeting the conditions set by the court, so a DWI defense attorney should look at it early rather than at the end of a case.

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Expunction is the strongest form of relief, because it allows records of the arrest to be destroyed. In Texas it is generally available only after a dismissal, an acquittal at trial or a no-bill by a grand Dallas DWI Lawyers jury. That means the arrest itself can show up on a search even when no conviction follows, until an expunction is granted. Someone arrested by Highland Park DPS or University Park PD whose case was later dismissed may still find the arrest on a background search until they petition to have it removed. Separately, the Texas Department of Public Safety keeps a driving record, and license suspensions from the ALR process are recorded there apart from the criminal case. Planning for the record should start on day one, not after a plea. Dallas DWI Lawyers reviews each case with the long-term outcome in mind, including expunction and nondisclosure guidance where they may apply. Call or text (945) 403-4331, 24/7, for a free case evaluation, or meet with our team at our office on North St Paul Street downtown. Spanish, Russian and Ukrainian are spoken.

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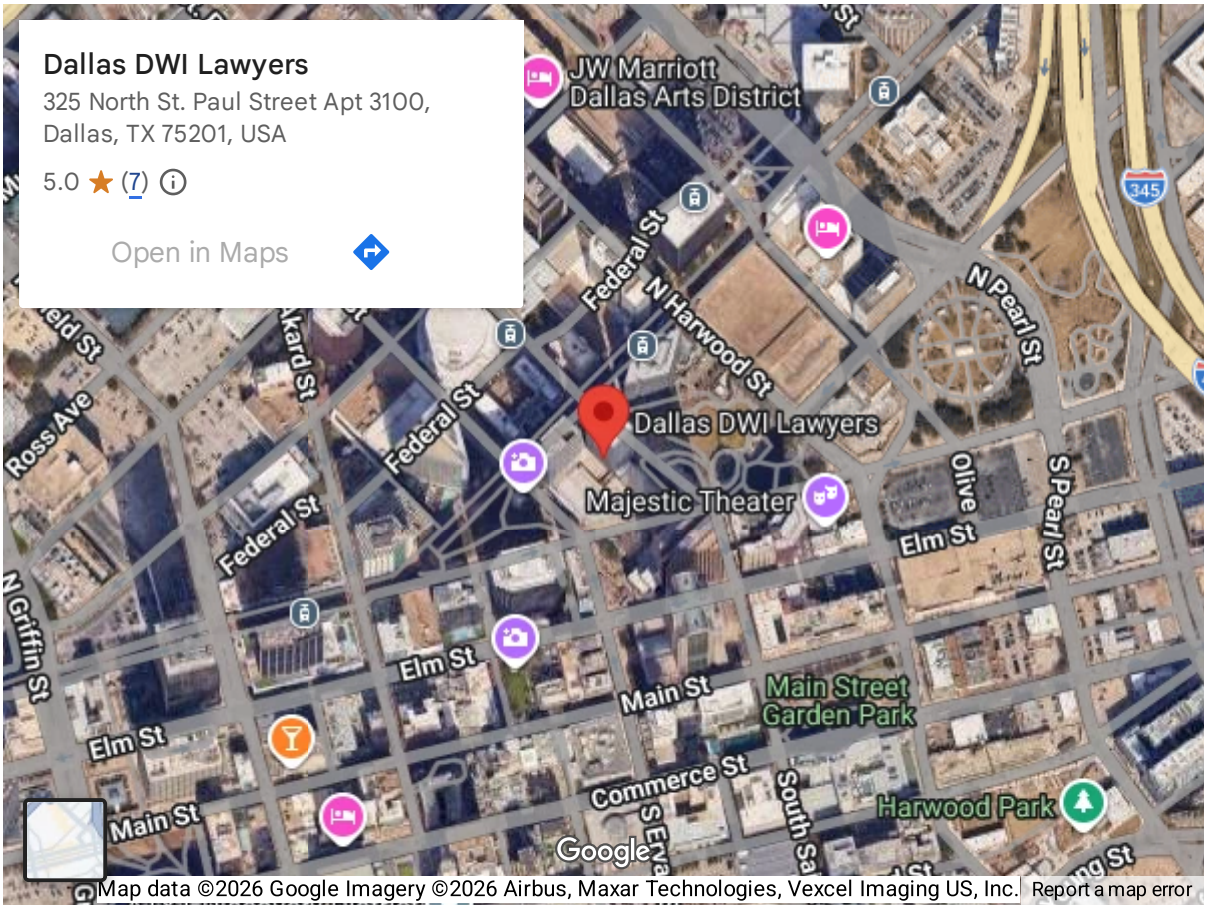

FAQ About

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.