McKinney Avenue on a Friday night moves at a crawl. Patio crowds spill toward the curb while rideshare drivers stop wherever they can find a gap, and everyone else seems to be circling the side streets off State Thomas and Cedar Springs Road looking for parking. That stop-and-go traffic gives officers plenty of chances to notice a drifting tire or a late turn signal, and a lot of Uptown DWI arrests start with something that small. Dallas DWI Lawyers is a downtown firm that handles DWI cases and nothing else, and many of the people who call us were stopped within a mile or *Dallas drunk driving defense* two of our office. Uptown is mostly patrolled by Dallas Police, though drivers who head home on the Dallas North Tollway or Central Expressway may end up talking to a Texas DPS trooper instead. Either way, the first thing we look at is why the car was stopped. An officer needs reasonable suspicion of a traffic violation or a crime before pulling someone over, and a vague note about weaving within a lane does not always hold up once the video is reviewed. We request body camera and dash camera footage early, because Uptown stops often happen on narrow streets with sloped curbs, uneven pavement and loud music nearby. Those conditions matter when an officer asks someone to walk a straight line or stand on one foot in dress shoes.

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Most first arrests in Uptown are charged under Texas Penal Code 49.04 as a Class B misdemeanor, which carries a range of 72 hours to 180 days in jail and a fine of up to $2,000. An open container in the car raises the minimum to six days, and a test result of 0.15 or higher makes it a Class A misdemeanor with up to a year in jail. Alongside the criminal case, the Texas Department of Public Safety starts a separate license suspension through the Administrative License Revocation program. You have only 15 days from the notice of suspension to request an ALR hearing, and that window closes fast for people still sorting out bond and getting their car back from the impound lot. Uptown clients have an easy trip to see us. The M-Line trolley runs along McKinney Avenue toward downtown, and the DART St. Paul station sits a short walk from our office in the Republic Center tower. Court is a different stop. Misdemeanor DWI cases go to the County Criminal Courts at the Frank Crowley Courts Building on North Riverfront Boulevard, on the west edge of downtown, and most people get there by car or rideshare across Woodall Rodgers. Jess Gambrell, who leads our Dallas office and spent six years as a Tarrant County prosecutor, prepares each case as though it will be tried in front of a jury. A DWI defense attorney who has worked *Dallas DWI Lawyers* on the other side of the courtroom tends to see the weak spots in a case sooner. Call or text (945) 403-4331 any time, day or night, for a free case evaluation, and we can set a time to meet at our St Paul Street office downtown.

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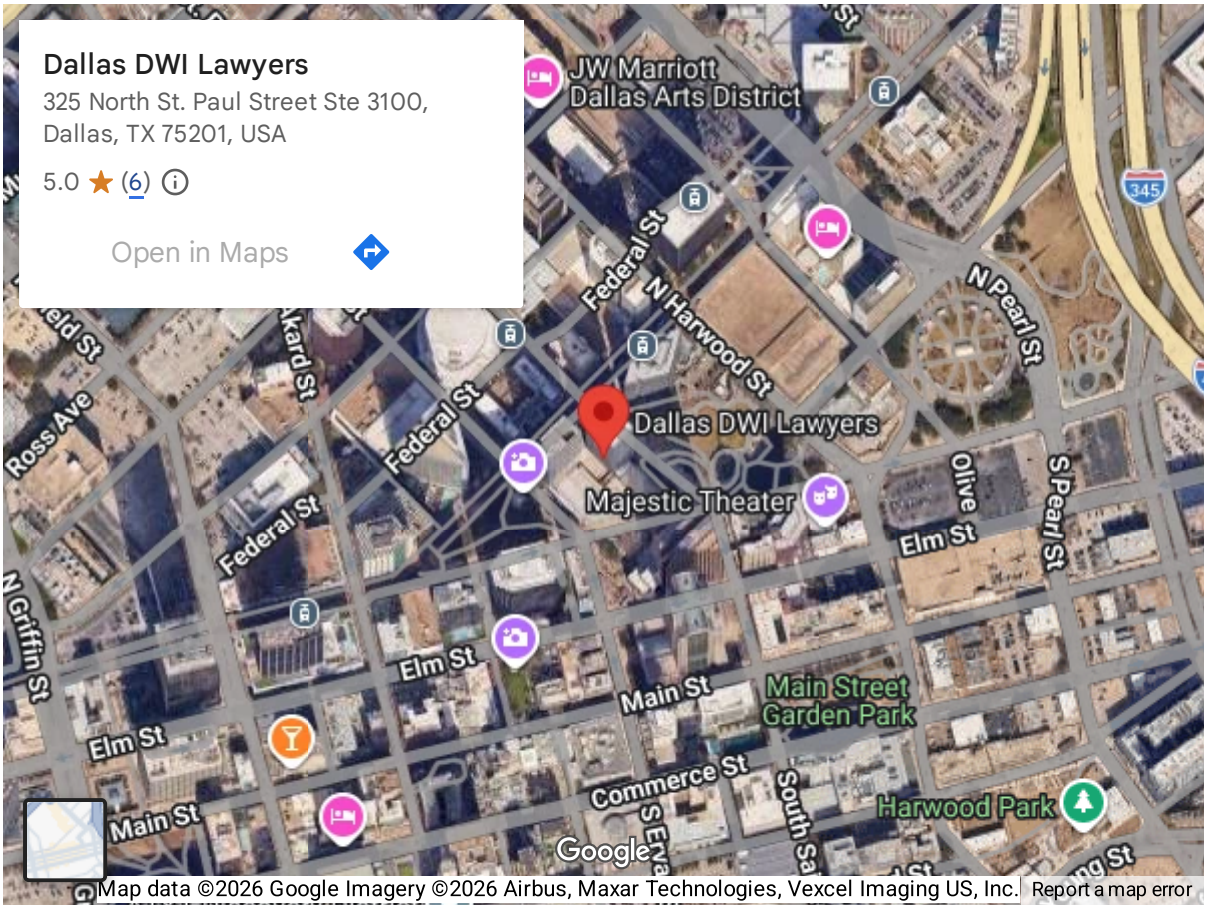

FAQ About

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.