Fifteen days is not much time, especially when the first few Click here to find out more go to recovering from an arrest and catching up at work. That is the window a Texas driver has to request an Administrative License Revocation hearing after receiving notice of suspension following a DWI arrest. Too many drivers from Oak Lawn to Preston Hollow miss that chance simply because nobody told them the clock had started. Dallas DWI Lawyers treats this deadline as the first job in every new case. The ALR case is separate from the criminal DWI charge. It is a civil matter handled by the Texas Department of Public Safety, with hearings before the State Office of Administrative Hearings, known as SOAH. The criminal case decides guilt and punishment in the County Criminal Courts or District Courts at the Frank Crowley Courts Building. The ALR case decides only whether your license is suspended. The two run side by side, and the result in one does not control the other, which is why both need attention from the start. The suspension periods are set by law. A driver age 21 or older who fails a breath or blood test with a result of 0.08 or more faces a suspension of at least 90 days. A first refusal to give a sample brings a suspension of at least 180 days. Those periods can be longer for people with prior incidents. If no hearing is requested within 15 days of receiving notice, the suspension generally takes effect without any hearing at all, and the chance to challenge it is gone.

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Requesting the hearing does more than delay things. At an ALR hearing, the defense may be able to question the arresting officer under oath and test whether there was reasonable suspicion for the stop and probable cause for the arrest. That testimony can become useful in the criminal case later, especially if it does not match the video. A DWI defense attorney also uses the ALR stage to get an early look at the State's evidence. If a suspension does happen, an occupational driver license, sometimes called an essential need license, can allow driving to work, school and essential tasks, which matters for anyone commuting along Mockingbird Lane or Harry Hines Blvd every day. Do not wait for the criminal case to start before thinking about your license. Call or text Dallas DWI Lawyers at (945) 403-4331, 24/7, for a free case evaluation, and we can talk through whether your 15 day window is still open. Our office is in the Republic Center tower at 325 North St Paul Street downtown, and we speak Spanish, Russian and Ukrainian.

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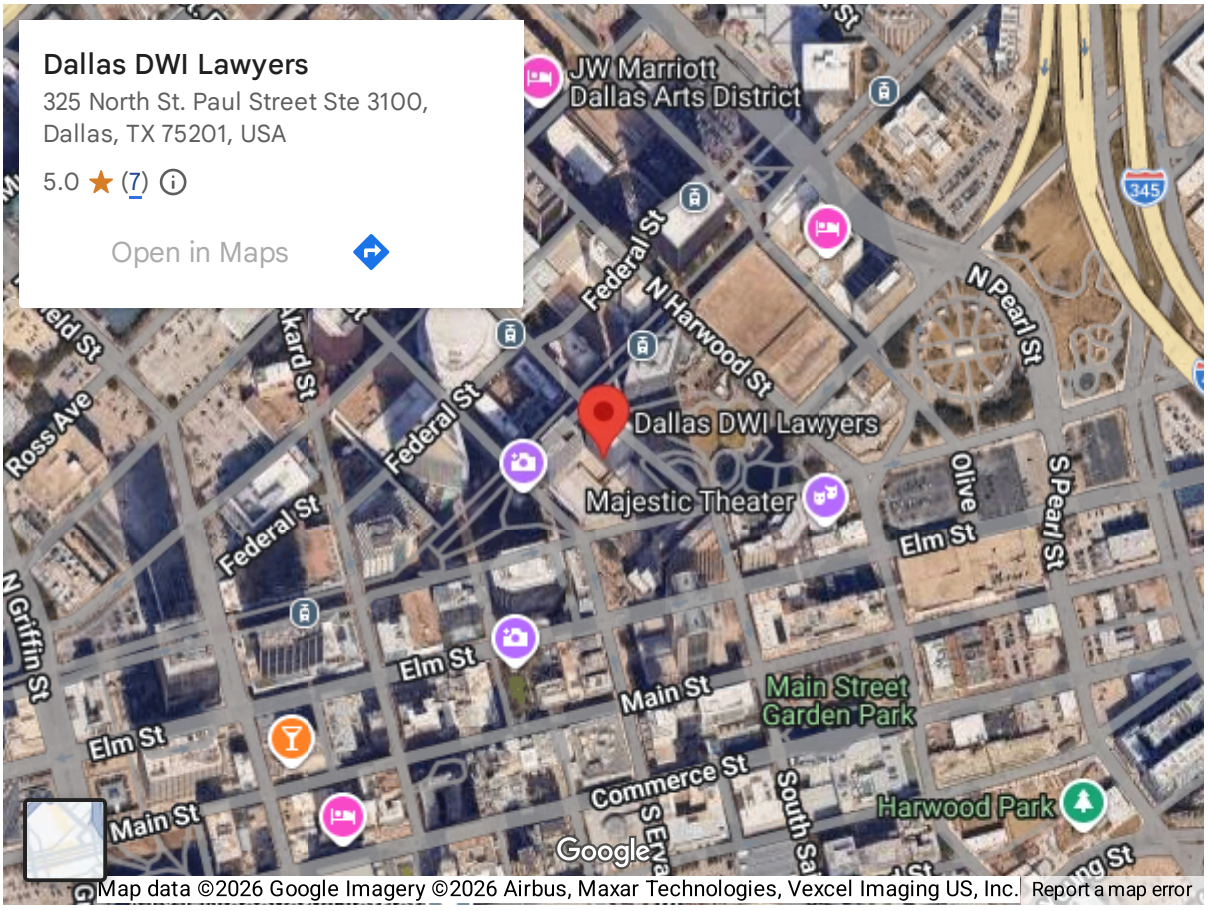

FAQ About

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.