Students at SMU and young drivers who grew up around University Park often have no idea how little alcohol it takes to be charged in Texas, at least until a University Park police officer is standing at the window on Hillcrest Avenue. Dallas DWI Lawyers works with drivers under 21 and their parents after arrests near Snider Plaza, the SMU campus and across Dallas County, where one night can follow a student into job and graduate school applications. Texas applies zero tolerance to drivers under 21. Any detectable amount of alcohol can lead to a charge of DUI by a minor, even when the driver feels completely fine. A full DWI charge can also be filed if the officer believes the driver had a 0.08 alcohol concentration or had lost the normal use of mental or physical faculties. Arrests in this part of town may come from University Park PD, Highland Park DPS, Dallas Police or Texas DPS troopers, and a DWI arrest generally means booking at Lew Sterrett Justice Center. For a nineteen-year-old who has never been in trouble, that night downtown can be frightening, and the calls home usually come the next morning.

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The defense starts with the same questions any DWI defense attorney asks. What reasonable suspicion did the officer have for the stop near Snider Plaza? Was there probable cause to arrest, and were the field sobriety tests given properly? Does the body camera video match the report? For a young client, the long-term record matters as much as the immediate penalty. Since 2019, deferred adjudication can be available for some first DWI cases, though not with a result of 0.15 or above, and some first-offense cases may later qualify for nondisclosure. Expunction is generally limited to cases that end in dismissal, acquittal or a no-bill, so the goal is set early. Chris Eggleston, one of the firm's criminal attorneys, earned his Dallas criminal defense DWI law degree cum laude from Texas A&M University School of Law in 2024, interned with the Federal Public Defender for the Northern District of Texas and Dallas DWI Lawyers practiced criminal defense in Tarrant County before joining. The license side needs attention too. The separate ALR case allows only 15 days to request a hearing, and an occupational driver license can allow a student to keep driving to class, work and essential tasks during a suspension. Parents are welcome in the conversation, though the student remains the client. Call or text Dallas DWI Lawyers at (945) 403-4331, 24/7, for a free case evaluation for your student or young driver. The office is at 325 North St Paul Street, Suite 3100, in downtown Dallas, about fifteen minutes south of the SMU campus.

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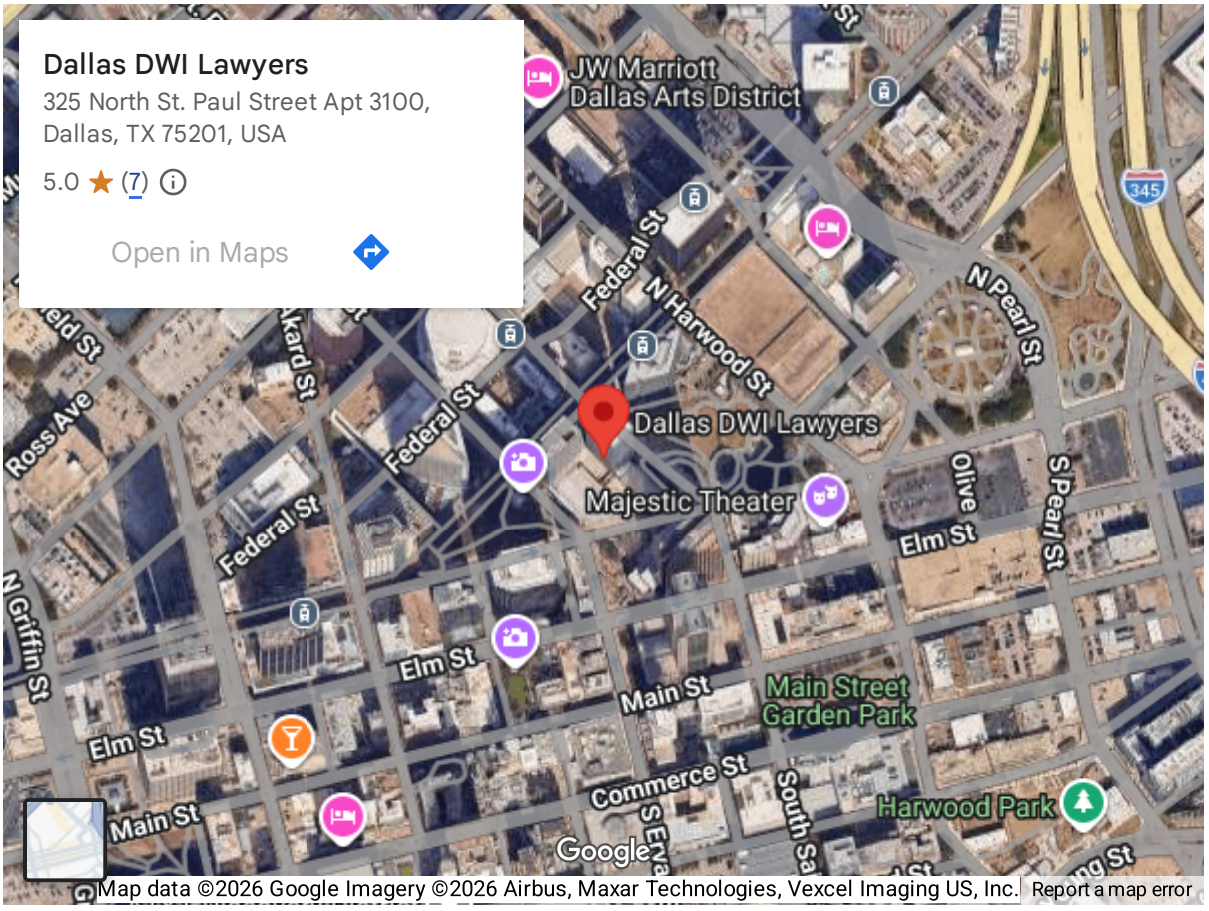

FAQ About

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.