Sentencing options are what most people ask about first, often before they have even picked up their car from the impound lot. In Dallas County, a DWI case can end in several ways, and two of the outcomes clients hear about most are community supervision, usually called probation, and deferred adjudication. They sound similar but work very differently. Dallas DWI Lawyers explains how each one operates, where each may or may not apply, and how the facts of an arrest in Preston Hollow, Lakewood or along Northwest Highway shape which options are realistic. Probation in a DWI case generally follows a conviction. The court suspends some or all of the jail time and places the person under conditions for a set period. Those conditions can include regular reporting, classes, community service and, in some cases, an ignition interlock device. For a first DWI, a Class B misdemeanor, the range is 72 hours to 180 days in jail and a fine of up to $2,000, so any probation terms are weighed against that baseline. A second DWI is a Class A misdemeanor with a 30-day minimum and up to a year in jail, which changes the conversation considerably. Deferred adjudication is a different path. Since 2019, Texas law has allowed deferred adjudication for a first DWI in some cases. Under deferred, the judge does not enter a finding of guilt while the person completes the conditions the court sets, and finishing them can avoid a final conviction. It is not available where the BAC was 0.15 or higher or where the person holds a commercial driver license. Deferred can matter years later, because nondisclosure may be possible for some first-offense DWI cases, which can limit who Dallas DUI and DWI lawyers sees the record. A DWI defense attorney looks at eligibility early, because choices made in the first weeks can affect which options stay open.

Dallas DWI Lawyers | 325 North St Paul Street, Suite 3100, Dallas, TX 75201 | (945) 403-4331

Misdemeanor DWI cases in Dallas County go to the County Criminal Courts at the Frank Crowley Courts Building, 133 N Riverfront Blvd. Jess Gambrell, who leads the Dallas office, served six years as an Assistant District Attorney in Tarrant County and also worked as an Assistant County Attorney in Williamson County, so he has seen how prosecutors evaluate DWI files from the inside. The firm still prepares every case as if it is going to trial. A file built that way gives the defense a clearer view of the strengths and weaknesses in the State's evidence, including the stop, the arrest decision and any test results, before any plea offer is considered. Probation and deferred are only two possibilities, and the right approach depends on your record, the test evidence and what the video shows. Call or text Dallas DWI Lawyers at (945) 403-4331, 24/7, for a free case evaluation. The team works from the St Paul Street office in downtown Dallas and speaks Spanish, Russian and Ukrainian, so you can go over your options in the language you are most comfortable using.

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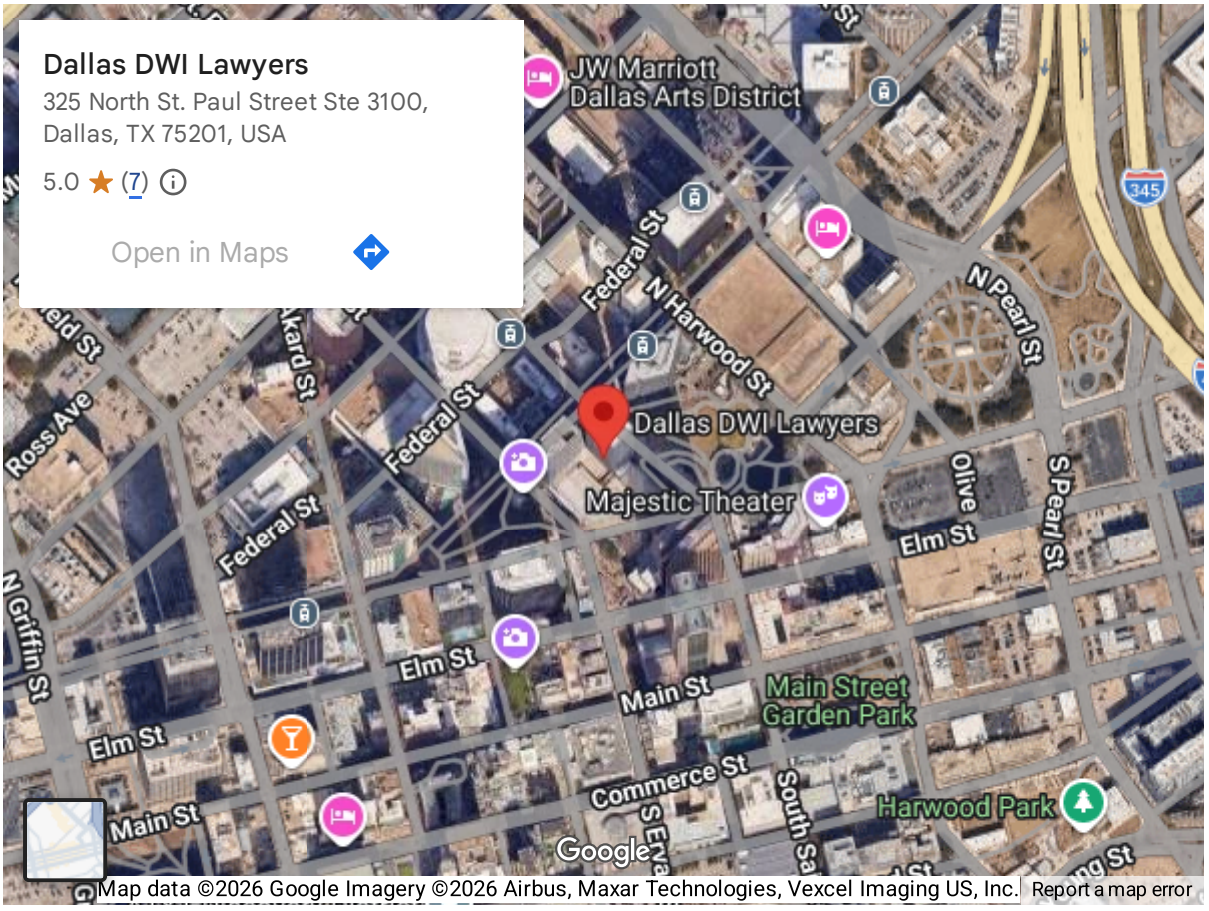

FAQ About

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.