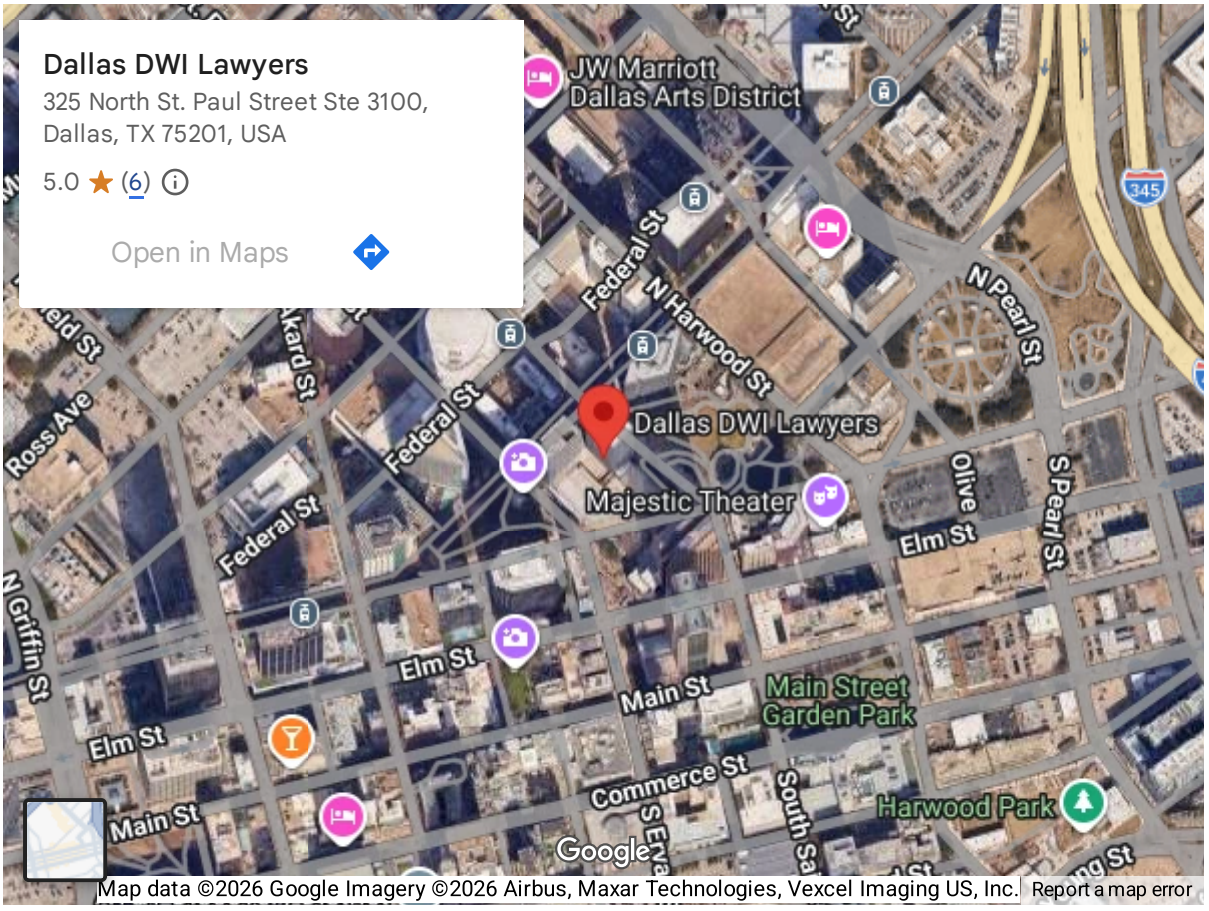
Dismissal is the word most people search for after a DWI arrest, often late at night from an apartment in Oak Lawn or a house near Lakewood. It is a fair thing to hope for, and in some Dallas County cases it does happen, but no honest lawyer can promise it at the start. Dallas DWI Lawyers looks at every case with that question in mind. Is there something in this file that may lead the prosecutor to drop the charge, or a judge to keep key evidence out? The review starts with the stop. An officer needs reasonable suspicion to pull a driver over, such as a traffic violation or driving behavior that suggests impairment. If a stop on Lemmon Avenue or Northwest Highway was based on something that does not hold up on video, the defense may file a motion to suppress the evidence that followed. Next is the arrest. Officers need probable cause to arrest for DWI, and that often rests on field sobriety tests. Those tests have standardized instructions, and when they are given on a sloped shoulder of the Dallas North Tollway or to someone with an injury, the results may mean less than the report suggests. Testing is the next area. Breath machines have maintenance and certification requirements, and blood samples depend on proper collection and a documented chain of custody. Problems in any of these records can weaken the State's proof. Video from the patrol car and body camera matters too, because it sometimes contradicts the written report on things like slurred speech or balance. A DWI defense attorney looking for grounds to challenge a case will compare these sources against each other, line by line, rather than trusting the summary in the offense report.

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When problems turn up, the outcome can vary. A prosecutor may decide to dismiss or reduce the charge. A judge DWI defense lawyer in Dallas may suppress evidence after a hearing, which can change the whole direction of the case. Each case is different, and the facts decide which options are realistic. A dismissal also matters for later, since in Texas expunction is generally available only after a dismissal, an acquittal or a no-bill by a grand jury. Kelvin M. Rodgers, our senior associate, prosecuted felony and DWI cases in Caddo Parish, Louisiana for more than five years, and that background helps when weighing how a prosecutor may view a weak spot in the evidence. The only way to know whether your case has those weak spots is to have it reviewed by someone who reads the whole file. Call or text Dallas DWI Lawyers at (945) 403-4331, 24/7, for a free case evaluation. We prepare every case as if it is going to trial, and our office is at 325 North St Paul Street downtown, near the DART St. Paul station.

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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.