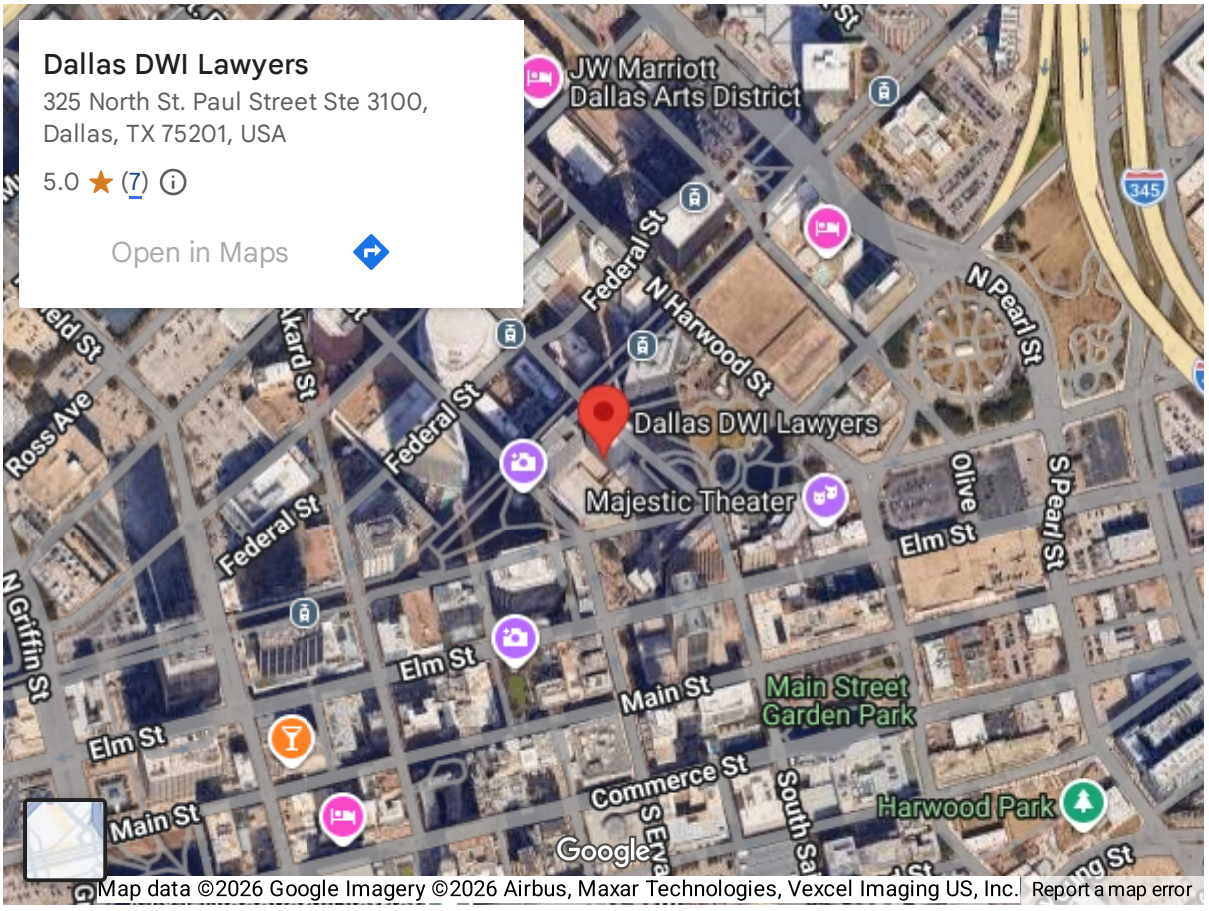
Red and blue lights in the mirror on the Dallas North Tollway at 1 a.m. tend to scramble anyone's thinking. In the minutes that follow, most drivers try to be helpful, and that instinct often leads them to say far more than they need to. Dallas DWI Lawyers reviews a lot of stop video from across the north side of the city, and the words spoken at the driver's window are often some of the most damaging evidence in the file. Being polite and calm is always the right start. Pull over safely and keep your hands where the officer can see them. Hand over your license and proof of insurance when asked, and follow lawful orders such as stepping out of the car. What you do not have to do is answer questions about where you were or how much you drank. Officers on Lemmon Avenue near Love Field or on McKinney Avenue in Uptown tend to ask the same few questions, starting with where you are coming from and how many drinks you had. Saying politely that you would prefer not to answer questions without a lawyer is allowed, and it is far better than guessing a number that becomes the centerpiece of the report. Field sobriety exercises are another moment where people feel they have no choice. These tests are generally voluntary in Texas, although declining them can be noted in the report and the officer may still arrest based on other observations. Breath and blood testing works differently. Under implied consent law in Texas Transportation Code chapter 724, refusing a test can lead to a license suspension of at least 180 days for a first refusal, and the refusal can be used as evidence. Officers can also seek a search warrant for blood. These are hard decisions to make on the side of a road, which is why a DWI defense attorney looks closely at how each request was explained on video.

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Everything at a stop is usually recorded. Dash cameras and body cameras pick up the conversation, and comments made in the patrol car or at the station may be recorded too. That recording can help the defense when it shows steady balance or an officer who skipped steps in the testing instructions. It can hurt when it captures someone joking about the night or apologizing for having too much. After an arrest, the safer approach is to stay quiet about the facts and ask for a lawyer. Write down your own memory of the stop as Dallas criminal defense DWI soon as you are released, including where it happened and what the officer said. Once you have been stopped and charged, the next conversation should be with a lawyer, not the police. Call or text Dallas DWI Lawyers at (945) 403-4331, 24/7, for a free case evaluation. Our team, including former prosecutors Jess Gambrell and Kelvin M. Rodgers, works from our office at 325 North St Paul Street in downtown Dallas.

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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.