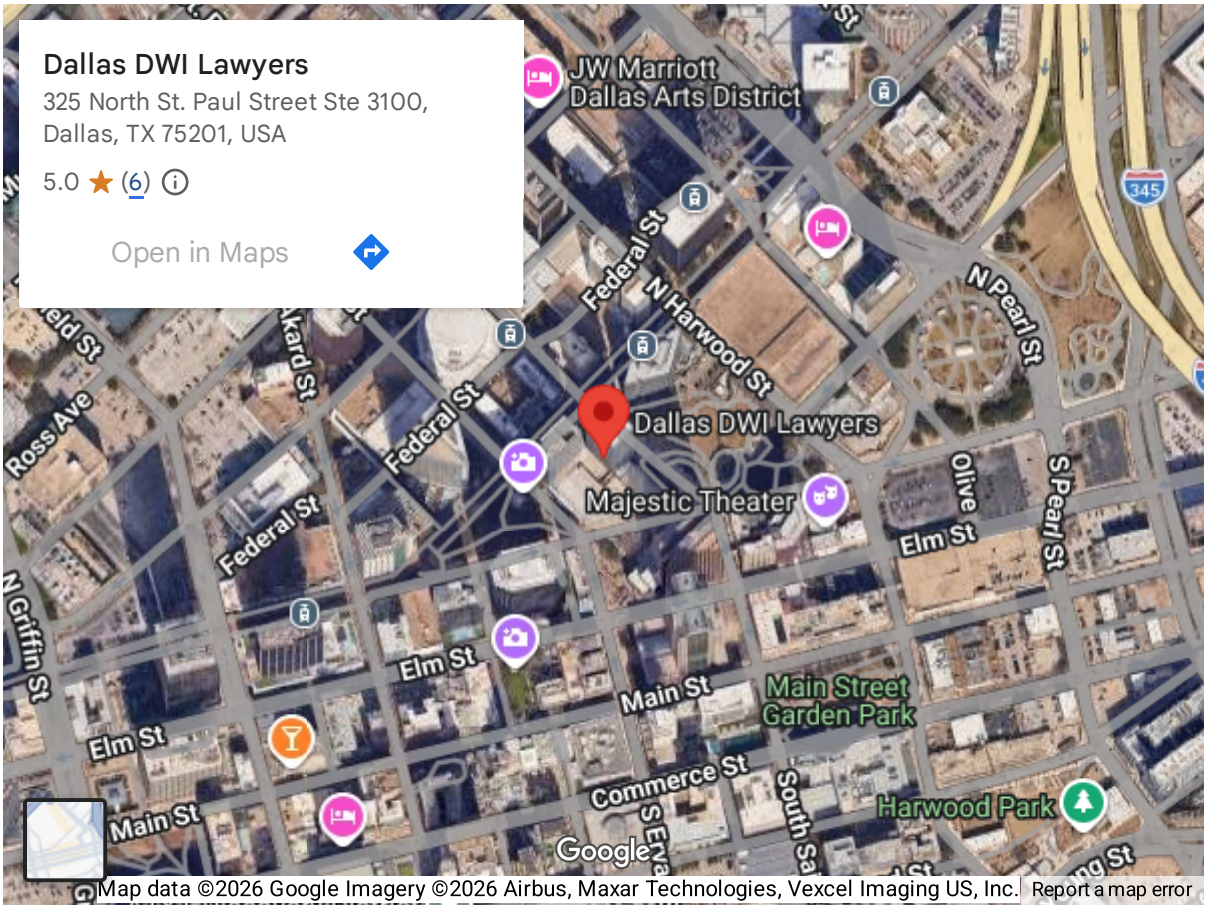
Blowing into a small device before the engine will start becomes part of the daily routine for many drivers after a Dallas DWI arrest. An ignition interlock measures alcohol on the breath and can keep a car from starting, and it can also require breath samples while the car is moving. For people who commute on Central Expressway or run errands around Knox Henderson and Lakewood, it changes how every trip begins. Dallas DWI Lawyers helps clients understand when interlock may be ordered, what it means in practice, and what the defense can do about it. Interlock often shows up first as a condition of bond, set shortly after booking at the Lew Sterrett Justice Center and long before any conviction. Under Texas practice, it is generally required for repeat DWI offenses and for cases where the alleged BAC was 0.15 or higher. In other cases a judge may still order it. Because bond conditions are set early, people sometimes assume they cannot be changed. In some cases the defense can ask the court to review a bond condition, especially where the facts or the person's history make the requirement hard to justify. Any change is up to the court, so the request has to be well supported.

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Living with an interlock takes planning. The device has to be installed on the vehicle you drive, it carries ongoing service and monitoring costs, and missed or failed tests can be reported. A report like that can create new problems in a pending case, so clients need to understand the rules from day one. Things like mouthwash, cold weather and battery problems can complicate readings, and keeping records of service visits can help if a question comes up later. Stephanie Tucker, the firm's Senior Paralegal, and Additional resources the intake team of Joe Tapgos and Victoria Al-Adam help clients keep track of deadlines and paperwork like this. Interlock questions often overlap with license questions, including the ALR suspension and any occupational driver license request. A driver living in Bluffview who works near Love Field, or a parent driving kids from Highland Park to school along Inwood Road, needs to know how all of these rules fit together. A DWI defense attorney looks at the interlock condition alongside the main defense work, which includes reviewing the stop, the arrest, the field sobriety tests and any breath or blood results. Kelvin M. Rodgers, a Senior Associate Attorney who prosecuted DWI cases in Caddo Parish, Louisiana for more than five years, brings that prosecutor's view to the review. If a judge has already ordered interlock, or you expect one to be ordered at your bond setting, get advice early. Call or text Dallas DWI Lawyers at (945) 403-4331, 24/7, for a free case evaluation. The team is based at the St Paul Street office in downtown Dallas, inside the Republic Center tower, and can talk through your bond conditions and your next court date.

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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.