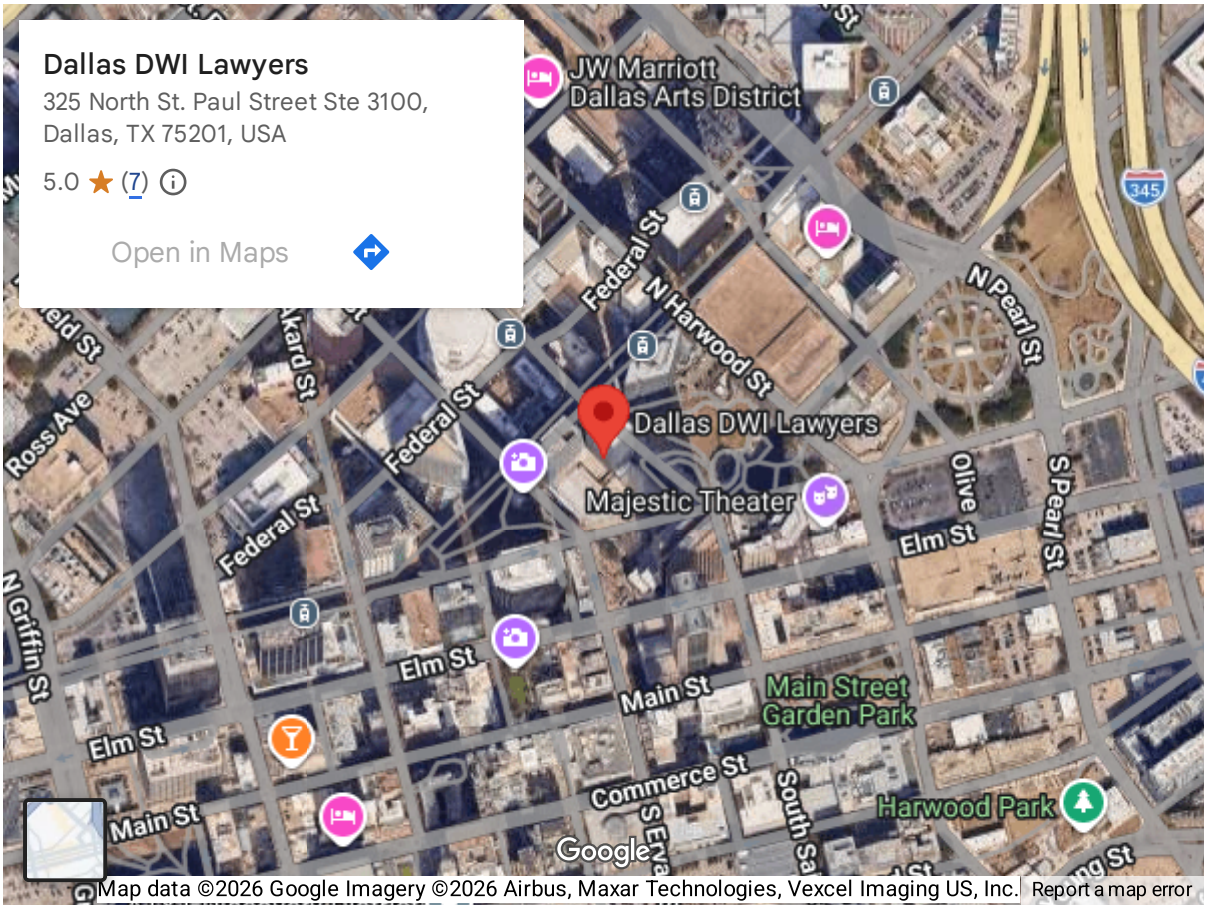
Weekend soccer games and dinners out in Lakewood put a lot of kids in the back seat, which is why a stop on Northwest Highway with a child in the car can change a family's week in an instant. A DWI with a passenger under 15 is charged far more harshly than a standard first offense, and the arrest often brings questions from relatives, schools and employers. Dallas DWI Lawyers defends parents and caregivers charged with DWI with a child passenger throughout Dallas County. Under Texas law, driving while intoxicated with a passenger younger than 15 is a state jail felony, punishable by 180 days to two years in a state jail facility. That is true even for someone with no prior record. Because it is a felony, the case is heard in the District Courts at the Frank Crowley Courts Building on Riverfront Boulevard rather than in the County Criminal Courts. The state can bring the charge based on a breath or blood result of 0.08 or more, or on an officer's opinion that the driver had lost the normal use of mental or physical faculties. Ignition interlock is often set as a bond condition early on.

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The defense is built as if the case is going to trial. A DWI defense attorney starts with the stop itself, asking what reasonable suspicion the officer had for pulling the car over on Northwest Highway or on a residential street in Bluffview. Next comes the arrest and whether probable cause existed. The team reviews how the field sobriety tests were given, often on a dark roadside with a worried parent watching their child, and compares the officer's notes with dash and body camera video. Breath or blood test procedures, and the proof of the child's age, are examined too. Jess Gambrell leads the firm's Dallas office and previously served six years as an Assistant District Attorney in Tarrant County and as an Assistant County Attorney **local Dallas DWI lawyer** in Williamson County. That time as a prosecutor gives useful insight into how these files are assessed. Alongside the criminal case, the separate ALR license case starts with a 15-day window to request a hearing. If a suspension takes effect, the firm can help with an occupational driver license so a parent can keep driving to work, school and other essential tasks. Call or text Dallas DWI Lawyers at (945) 403-4331, 24/7, for a free and confidential case evaluation. You can meet the team at 325 North St Paul Street, Suite 3100, in downtown Dallas, and Spanish, Russian and Ukrainian speakers are available.

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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.