

Cowboy Law Group Addresses Impact of Texas Senate Bill 2320 on Criminal Defense Cases in The Woodlands

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THE WOODLANDS, TX - April 09, 2026 -
Cowboy Law Group is addressing the significant impact of Texas Senate Bill 2320 on criminal defense cases throughout The Woodlands and Montgomery County, as the new legislation dramatically increases penalties for DWI offenses and reshapes the defense landscape for accused individuals.

The legislation, which took effect September 1, 2025, elevates first-time DWI offenses from Class B to Class A misdemeanors, doubles potential jail time to one year, and increases maximum fines from $2,000 to $4,000. The law also establishes a mandatory minimum 72-hour jail term for first-time convictions and elevates high-BAC cases to state jail felony status. Cowboy Law Group The Woodlands criminal defense attorney team, including Chris H. Warren, Brian C. Burns, and J. Paxton Adams, emphasizes that these changes fundamentally alter plea negotiations, pretrial procedures, and trial strategies for defendants throughout Montgomery County.

"Senate Bill 2320 has created a materially different sentencing landscape in Montgomery County, where

courts already maintain an aggressive enforcement posture through no-refusal weekends and mandatory blood draws," stated Chris Warren, Criminal Defense Attorney at Cowboy Law Group. "The elevation of first-time DWI to a Class A misdemeanor means that initial conversations with defense counsel are more consequential than ever, as early decisions now shape significantly higher stakes for the accused."

The enhanced penalties arrive as Montgomery County experiences a surge in THC-related possession charges tied to hemp-derived vape products. Many residents remain unaware that Texas law distinguishes between legal hemp products and illegal THC concentrations based solely on lab testing results, creating new categories of criminal exposure where defense attorneys increasingly challenge testing methodologies.

Beyond immediate sentencing concerns, the reclassification to felony status for high-BAC cases triggers extensive collateral consequences affecting professional licenses, employment background checks, housing applications, and immigration status. Unlike dismissed cases or acquittals that may qualify for expunction, DWI convictions under the elevated charges cannot be expunged from criminal records.

The firm notes that the 15-day Administrative License Revocation hearing deadline remains unchanged despite the enhanced criminal penalties. Missing this critical deadline results in automatic license suspension regardless of the criminal case outcome, adding urgency to securing representation immediately following arrest.

Montgomery County's documented history of aggressive DWI enforcement, combined with the new statutory framework, creates heightened legal exposure for accused individuals. The mandatory minimum jail terms eliminate judicial discretion in sentencing, while the felony-level charges for repeat offenses or aggravating factors expand the scope of potential consequences beyond traditional misdemeanor outcomes.

Cowboy Law Group is a criminal defense law firm serving individuals charged with state and federal offenses in The Woodlands, Montgomery County, and throughout Texas. Attorneys Chris H. Warren, Brian C. Burns, and J. Paxton Adams provide bilingual English/Spanish criminal defense representation in state and federal courts, handling DWI, drug crimes, assault, gun charges, murder defense, federal charges, and juvenile offenses. Free case evaluations are available for individuals facing criminal charges in The Woodlands and surrounding communities.

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Cowboy Law Group

Cowboy Law Group offers expert criminal and juvenile defense in Texas, combining legal expertise with dedicated representation to protect clients' rights.

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