

FREE GUIDE

Know-Your-Rights After Arrest Checklist

Free and confidential help in your language for people facing criminal charges in the United States.



GuardLine Defense | guardlinedefense.com

GuardLine Defense is a free attorney-matching and information service. We are not a law firm, we do not provide legal advice, and using this resource does not create an attorney-client relationship. Attorney advertising. We never charge you and are never paid a percentage of any attorney's fees. If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

Know-Your-Rights After Arrest Checklist

If you or someone you love is arrested, it can feel scary and confusing. This free checklist can help you stay calm, remember your rights, and focus on the first steps to take. GuardLine Defense is a free attorney-matching service, not a law firm, and this guide is not legal advice.

KNOW YOUR BASIC RIGHTS

- You have the right to remain silent.
- You have the right to ask for a lawyer.
- Do not answer questions about where you were born or how you entered the country without a lawyer.
- Do not sign papers you do not understand.
- You can ask for an interpreter if you need one.
- Everyone has the right to a defense, no matter their immigration status.

WHAT TO SAY AFTER ARREST

- Stay calm and keep your hands visible.
- Say, "I want to remain silent."
- Say, "I want a lawyer."
- If needed, say, "I need an interpreter."
- Do not argue, run, or resist, even if you think the arrest is wrong.
- Do not explain your case to police, cellmates, or anyone else except your lawyer.



WHAT TO DO IN THE FIRST HOURS

- Try to remember the names of officers, the agency, and where you are being taken.
- Ask if you can make a phone call.
- Call a trusted family member or friend and share your location if you can.
- Ask your trusted person to look for your court information and case details.
- Write down or remember what happened before, during, and after the arrest.
- Keep copies of any papers or booking information if you receive them.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR IMMIGRATION CASE

- A criminal case can affect immigration status, so ask for a lawyer as soon as possible.
- Do not guess or give false information.
- Do not talk about your case on the phone, in messages, or on social media.
- Do not let anyone pressure you to take a deal before you understand it.
- Ask your lawyer to explain how any plea or sentence could affect immigration issues.
- If immigration officers contact you, say you want to speak with a lawyer first.



HOW GUARDLINE DEFENSE CAN HELP

- GuardLine Defense is a free attorney-matching service for immigrants facing criminal charges in the USA.
- We can help connect you or your family with a defense lawyer to speak with.
- Have ready the arrested person's full name, date of birth, and where they may be held.
- If you know it, share the case number, booking number, or court location.
- A trusted family member or friend can reach out if the arrested person cannot.
- Getting matched quickly can help you ask questions and understand next steps.





Keep this checklist somewhere easy to find and share it with people you trust. Staying quiet, asking for a lawyer, and acting quickly can help protect you.

Want a real person to help? Get matched with a criminal defense attorney for free at guardlinedefense.com — in your language, no obligation.

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