



WORKING WITH A PUBLIC DEFENDER

GETTING A PUBLIC DEFENDER

1. To be represented by a public defender, you must apply.
 - ◆ If you are **not in jail**, go to the public defender's office for an interview as soon as possible, no later than ten (10) business days before your court date. Call **1-877-430-5187** to find the nearest public defender's office. Bring proof of income and any court documents you have received since the arrest.
 - ◆ If you are **in jail**, a representative from the public defender's office will come to the jail.
2. You will be asked questions about your income and, if applicable, your spouse's income. The less you earn the more likely it is that you can be represented by the public defender.
3. If you qualify, then the public defender will represent you free of charge. There is a \$50 administrative fee when applying for a public defender, but you will not be denied representation if you cannot afford to pay it.
4. If you are in jail, the public defender will work to get you out on bail. Having someone post bail for you will not jeopardize your chances of having a public defender represent you.
5. The public defender will work with you to prepare your case.
6. If you forget your court date, contact the Public Defender's office at 1-877-430-5187.
7. If you were previously represented by a certain public defender and are now having issues with the judgment or parole from that case, you may contact the Public Defender's office at 1-877-430-5187 and ask to be put in contact with the same public defender.

PUBLIC DEFENDER BASICS

1. Your public defender works for you, not the police or the state. Be open and honest with them.
2. You can have family members and others call your attorney to provide information, but your public defender will not provide anyone with information about your case unless you have told your attorney that it was okay to do so.

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PUBLIC DEFENDER BASICS

3. Be truthful! Lying or leaving out information can hurt your case. To represent you properly, the public defender needs to be fully prepared, which may require responding to information that you think may be harmful. Your attorney will not share information that you provide unless you agree to its disclosure and it helps your case.
4. You can contact the public defender with questions or concerns about your case.
5. Do not do your own investigating. The public defender can and will do all the appropriate investigations.
6. Do not talk to anyone about the case. That person can be a witness against you.
7. Bear in mind that the public defender has experience with the system and will work on your behalf.