



WHAT TO DO IF YOU OR YOUR LOVE ONE IS ARRESTED

- **SECOND EDITION**

IN THIS FREE REPORT YOU'LL
DISCOVER:

HOW TO CHOOSE WINNING
CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYER.

THE MAIN CAUSE OF WRONGFUL
CONVICTIONS

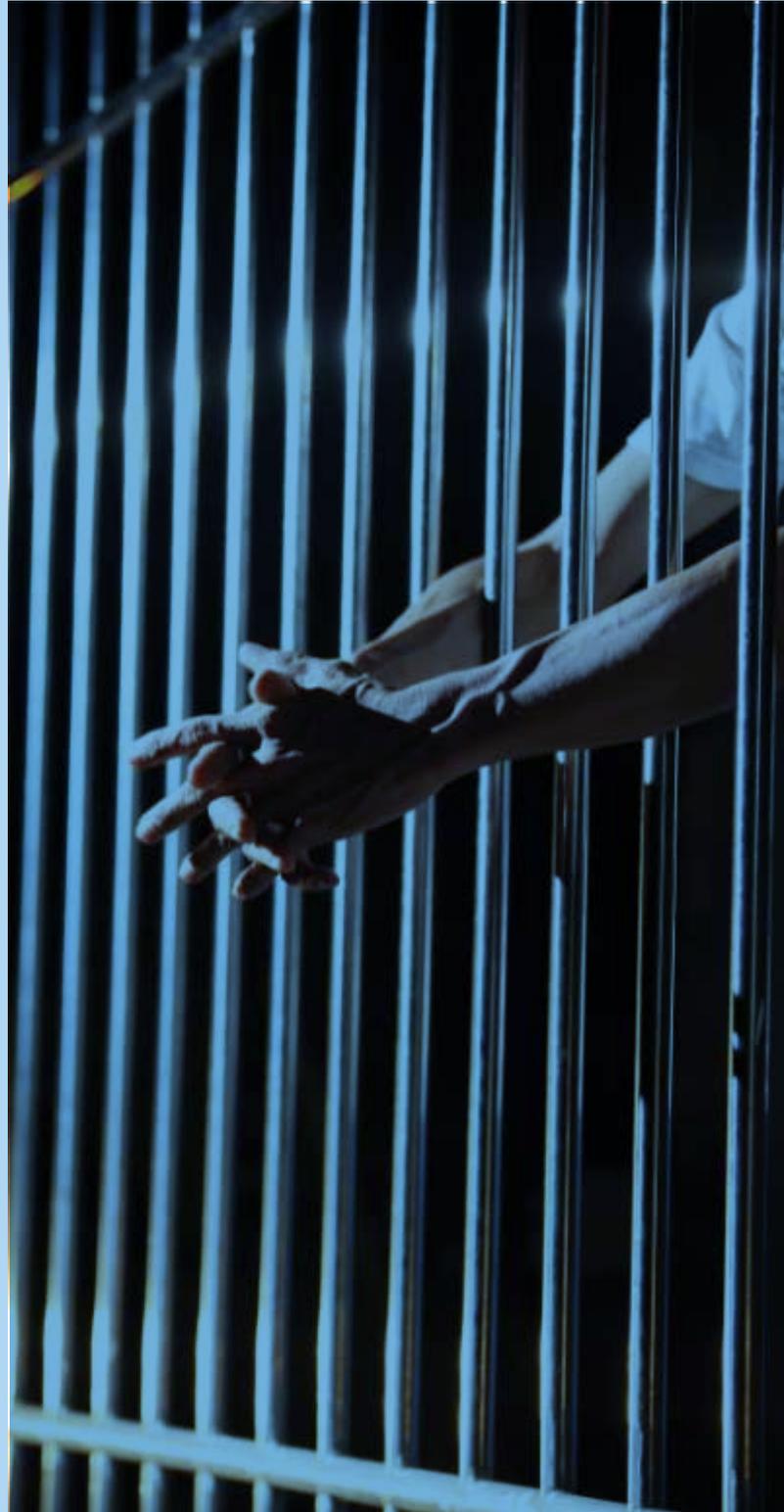
THE BIGGEST MISTAKE MIKE TYSON
MADE WITH HIS CRIMINAL CASE &
HOW YOU CAN AVOID IT

AND MUCH MORE ...



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ROSSEN LAW FIRM	03
MEET OUR ATTORNEYS	04 - 06
FLORIDA CRIMINAL MAXIMUM PENALTIES	07
SO YOU'VE BEEN ARRESTED	08
STEP #1 CALL THE RIGHT ATTORNEY	09 - 14
STEP #2 HOW TO GET SOMEONE OUT OF JAIL	15 - 18
STEP #3 RECORD EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED	19 - 20
STEP #4 LIST ALL POTENTIAL EVIDENCE	21 - 23
STEP #5 GET BACK TO NORMAL	24 - 25
HOW AN EXPERT CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY NAVIGATES A CASE	26
HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY	27 - 28
WHAT FORMER CLIENTS SAY	29
OUR OFFICES	30





WE HELP GOOD PEOPLE WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN

Rossen Law Firm has helped good people when bad things happen to them for more than a decade. We truly believe that bad things can happen to good people, and it is our mission to help them so they can achieve their best future!

Rossen Law Firm is dedicated to helping clients turn their lives around and move forward from what otherwise COULD have been debilitating criminal charges.

With offices across from Miami to Fort Lauderdale to Boca Raton and Wellington, RosSEN Law Firm provides expert criminal defense to people throughout South Florida.

Rossen Law Firm has eight award-winning attorneys on staff, ready to assist you and work to defend your rights, future and freedom by getting you the best possible result on your criminal case in South Florida.

Thanks to our incredible clients, our team has more than 750 5-star reviews on the internet.

750+ ★★★★★
Reviews On



MEET OUR ATTORNEYS



Adam Rossen

Adam, Founder & CEO of Rossen Law Firm, was born & raised in South Florida. He's always had a passion for helping people.

A University of Miami Law School grad, Adam loves the competition, strategy and debating he gets to do as a Criminal Defense Lawyer.

His law career began as a state prosecutor in Broward County. He was the first prosecutor of his class promoted - ahead of 32 others. Rossen Law Firm was born from a desire to help people in a deeper, more meaningful way. Adam strives to make a difference in the lives of his clients, employees and community.

With numerous legal awards, such as a perfect Top 100 DUI Lawyer by National Advocacy for DUI Defense, 10 rating on Avvo, A SuperLawyers rising star, AV Preeminent rated by Martindale Hubbell; Adam is still most proud of the 5-star reviews and heart-felt testimonials left by his clients.

Fun Fact: Adam has coached basketball for 10+ years

Manny Serra - Jovenich

Manny, Managing Partner at Rossen Law Firm, was born and raised in South Florida. He became a lawyer to use his talents to help people.

A quote he lives by, especially in the courtroom, is:
"A true Statesman should be incorruptible and fearless" - Samuel Adams.

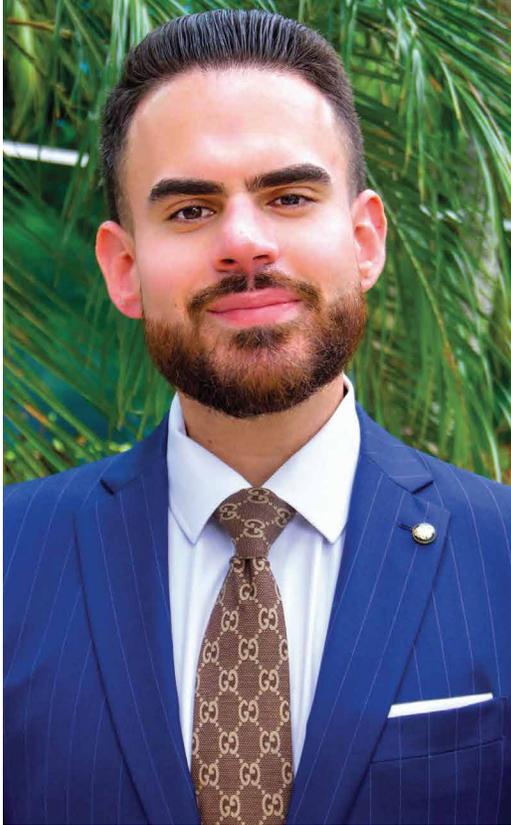
Manny's background includes fighting against big banks during Florida's foreclosure crisis and protecting people's constitutional rights as a Broward County Public Defender. He loves to represent a "David" against a "Goliath".

Manny graduated from Nova Southeastern Law School and was named to the National Trial Lawyers' Top 40 Under 40 list & named the 10 Best in Client Satisfaction by the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys.

Fun Fact: Manny loves to surf



MEET OUR ATTORNEYS



David Tarras

David, Partner & Head of our White Collar & Federal Criminal Defense division at Rossen Law Firm, was raised in South Florida. He's spent his entire legal career fighting tirelessly for the criminally accused in both State and Federal Court in Florida.

David graduated from Fordham University School of Law in Manhattan, New York. He's since tried more than 40 jury trials, defended more than 1,000 clients and earned recognition as one of the top 40 criminal defense attorneys under the age of 40 in Florida.

David gets to fulfill his dream of being in a position to help and safeguard his clients' futures by using his passion for competition, creative conflict resolution and the art of persuasion as a defense attorney.

Fun Fact: David is a sci-fi enthusiast and can often be found reading or watching something Star Wars-related in his downtime.

Meri Ros

Meri, Partner & Board Certified Criminal Defense Trial Attorney at the Rossen Law Firm, was born in Spain and raised in South Florida where she has been practicing criminal defense for more than 13 years.

Meri has tried more than 50 jury trials including Murder and Capital Sexual Battery trials. She has devoted her entire career to the zealous advocacy of those accused of crimes.

Meri graduated Summa Cum Laude from Florida International University where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy with a Certificate in Law, Ethics, and Society. She received her Juris Doctorate degree from St. Thomas University where she was also the recipient of the ABOTA Trial Scholarship.

Fun Fact: Meri loves to travel and read. She also has a pet German Shepherd named Hunter that she loves to train.



MEET OUR ATTORNEYS



Susan Lawson

Susan Lawson, Partner & Board Certified Criminal Defense Trial Attorney at the Rossen Law Firm, was born and raised in South Florida and has been practicing criminal defense for over 13 years.

Susan received a bachelor's degree in Legal Studies from the University of Central Florida. She received her Juris Doctorate degree from Saint Thomas University School of Law where she was a member of the International Moot Court and Inter-cultural Human Rights Law Review.

Susan has always loved to litigate and help others. She knew she could use her voice, knowledge, skills, and passion to zealously advocate and make a difference in the lives of others.

Fun Fact: Susan loves to spend time with her husband and dogs. They are a baseball family and spend much of their time on the field.

Scott Simmons



Scott Simmons, Criminal Defense Attorney at the Rossen Law Firm, was born and raised in South Florida. Before joining the Rossen Law Firm he was an Assistant Public Defender in Broward County. As an Assistant Public Defender, he handled thousands of cases, ranging from Armed Carjacking to Driving Under the Influence.

Scott graduated Cum Laude from Florida Atlantic University where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. Scott received his Juris Doctorate degree, Cum Laude, from Nova Southeastern University - Shepard Broad College of Law.

While in law school, Scott won the largest Moot Court Criminal Procedure Competition in the Nation, and competed in several other National Trial Competition.

Fun Fact: Scott enjoys spending his free time with his Fiancé and their 2-year-old Goldendoodle named Pinot.

FLORIDA CRIMINAL MAXIMUM PENALTIES

M2

The maximum penalties for a second-degree misdemeanor in Florida were typically up to 60 days in jail, six months of probation, and a \$500 fine.

M1

For a first-degree misdemeanor in Florida, the maximum penalties were typically up to one year in jail or 12 months probation, and a \$1,000 fine.

F3

The maximum penalties for a third-degree felony in Florida generally include up to 5 years in prison, up to 5 years of probation, and a fine of up to \$5,000.

F2

The maximum penalties for a second-degree felony in Florida typically include up to 15 years in prison, up to 15 years of probation, and a fine of up to \$10,000.

F1

A first-degree felony in Florida is a serious crime. The maximum penalties for a first-degree felony in Florida generally include up to 30 years in prison or, in some cases, life imprisonment, and a fine of up to \$10,000.

PBL

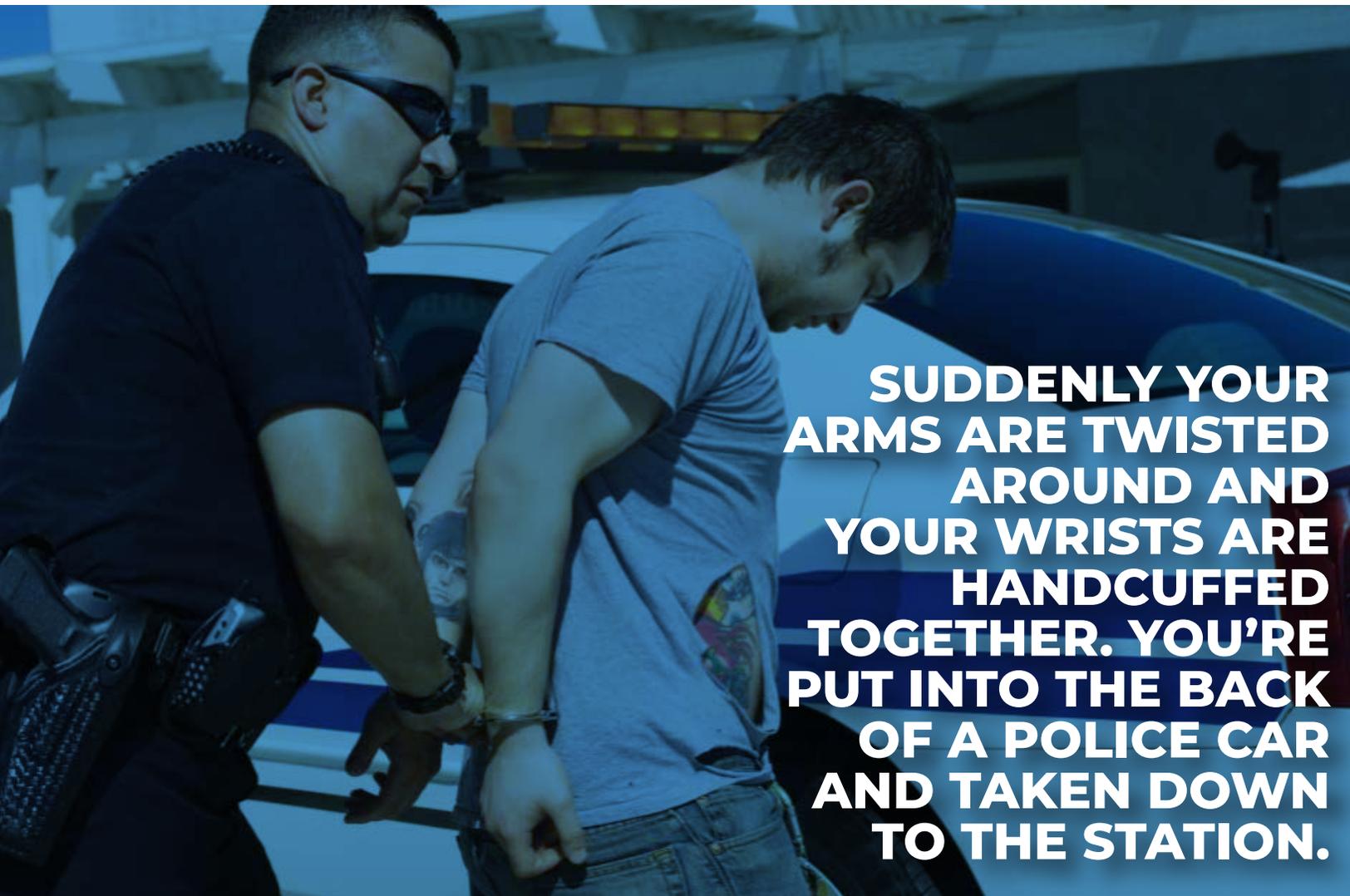
The penalties for a punishable by life felony (PBL) in Florida can include up to life in prison and a fine of up to \$15,000.

Below are 5 simple steps for your best chance at success.



SO YOU'VE BEEN ARRESTED...

The officer barks at you.



SUDDENLY YOUR ARMS ARE TWISTED AROUND AND YOUR WRISTS ARE HANDCUFFED TOGETHER. YOU'RE PUT INTO THE BACK OF A POLICE CAR AND TAKEN DOWN TO THE STATION.

NOW WHAT?

But if you don't know what's going on, or how to handle the situation, that's exactly what you're going to do. **And when you're in panic mode you might make decisions that can make the situation worse.** That's why we've prepared this free report; so that if you or a loved one are ever arrested you know what to do.

01

STEP #1

CALL THE RIGHT ATTORNEY



It may seem obvious, but it's not always the first thing people do. Getting arrested is a scary and emotional time for everyone involved.

And when you're facing feelings of fear and uncertainty, you probably won't be thinking straight. And when you're not thinking straight you're not likely to make the best decisions for you.

If it's a loved one, just getting the call and hearing your husband, wife, son, daughter, sibling, or good friend is in jail is awful. You don't know what happened. You don't know if they're okay. You don't know how much trouble they're in, or whether their life or freedom is in jeopardy. You might even start to panic a little bit.

It doesn't matter if it's you or a loved one who was arrested.

Either way you are emotionally invested

That's why you need a criminal lawyer. A lawyer will not be thinking emotionally. A lawyer will be thinking logically.

A CRIMINAL LAWYER WILL HELP YOU MAKE THE BEST DECISION FOR YOU OR YOUR LOVED ONE WITHOUT HIS JUDGMENT BEING CLOUDED BY PANIC, OR FEAR

Also, a criminal lawyer knows the system. They'll make sure the police don't take advantage of you, and that you receive the rights guaranteed to you by the law.





WHAT ABOUT MY MIRANDA RIGHTS?



After an arrest, a lot of clients will come in telling us that the police didn't read them their miranda rights, and want to know whether that will help their case or not. **The thing with Miranda Rights is that they don't kick in right away.**

The cops are required by law to read you your Miranda Rights before conducting a "custodial investigation." What does that mean? It means that you have to be in a situation where:

- 1** YOU'RE NOT FREE TO LEAVE
- 2** YOU'RE BEING ASKED QUESTIONS BY A GOVERNMENT AGENT (A COP)
- 3** THE QUESTIONS YOU'RE BEING ASKED ARE LIKELY TO LEAD TO AN INCRIMINATING RESPONSE

So if the cops arrest you without asking you any questions, technically they don't have to read you your Miranda Rights.

Now, of course there are times when the cops don't read your Miranda Rights when they're supposed to, and that's another reason why you need an attorney. An attorney will tell you when your rights have been violated based on the information you provide.

IN OUR EXPERIENCE, THERE ARE 2 WAYS THE COPS USUALLY LIE ABOUT MIRANDA RIGHTS:

1) If you admit to something they'll try and say it was just a "spontaneous utterance" rather than the product of them questioning you, when in fact they've been grilling you for 20 minutes

2) They'll have you sign your Rights Waiver Form AFTER they've already illegally interrogated you without reading you your Miranda Rights. The Rights Waiver Form is a one - page sheet of paper that the cops carry with them that you have to sign and initial stating what day and time the cops read you your Miranda Rights. Even though it's required for a lot of minor street crimes, the cops never even both to provide this paper.



In many cases they'll illegally interrogate you first and once you've admitted what they want to hear, they'll have you sign the paper without explaining what it is. So you don't even know your rights have been violated!

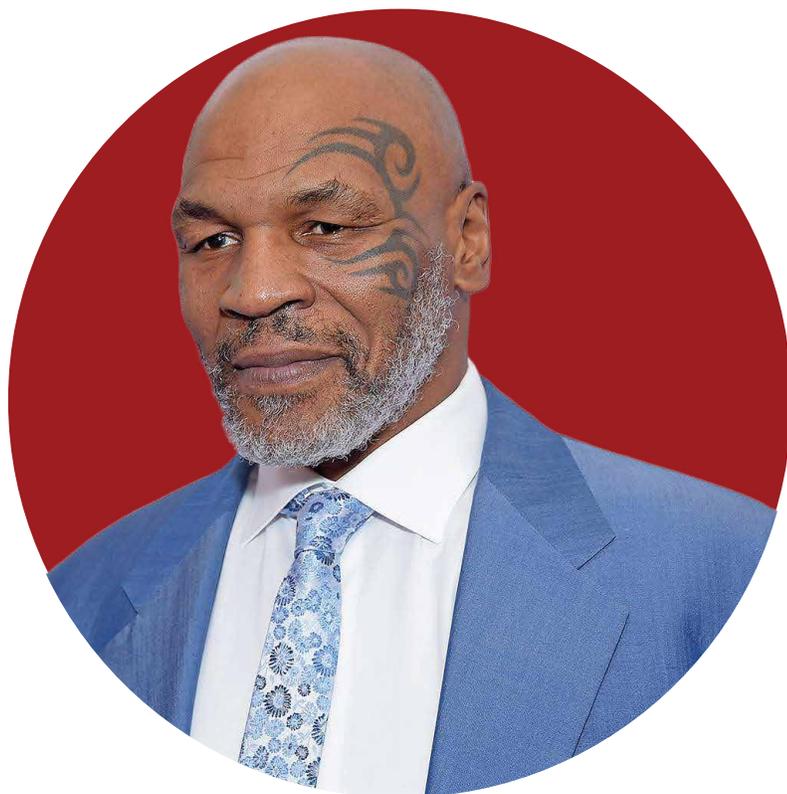
Even though it's required, the Rights Waiver Form is almost NEVER THERE! How convenient is that for the officer? Think about it...the cops always show up in uniform, with their badge and gun at the ready. If they can remember those requirements, why then do they not have this paper close to 90% of the time? And unfortunately only sometimes will this negatively impact a cop at trial.

NOW, WE WANT TO SPECIFY THAT HAVING A CRIMINAL LAWYER IS KEY



Every area of law is different and has very specific rules. **You wouldn't hire a personal injury attorney to write your will, and you definitely shouldn't hire anyone other than a criminal lawyer to take on your criminal case.**

Take Mike Tyson's case for example. **Tyson was arrested on a serious felony charge back in the 90s and walked into court with a tax attorney.** That was a set up for failure. His attorney not only did a poor job of questioning witnesses, but also refused to submit key evidence in the case and had no real trial experience. The result? The attorney lost the case. Mike Tyson was convicted and spent years in prison.



The other big pitfall for Tyson—he had a big-time New York City lawyer trying a case in small town Indianapolis. Multiple times during the trial the local attorney assigned to work with Tyson's lawyer offered wise advice that was completely ignored. More bad news for his case. Local attorneys give you an edge. They know the judges, and other key players in their own system, and how to deal with them—meaning they can give you a home-court advantage. **In his book, Tyson writes that if the local attorney were in charge of his case, he's sure he would have been found innocent.**

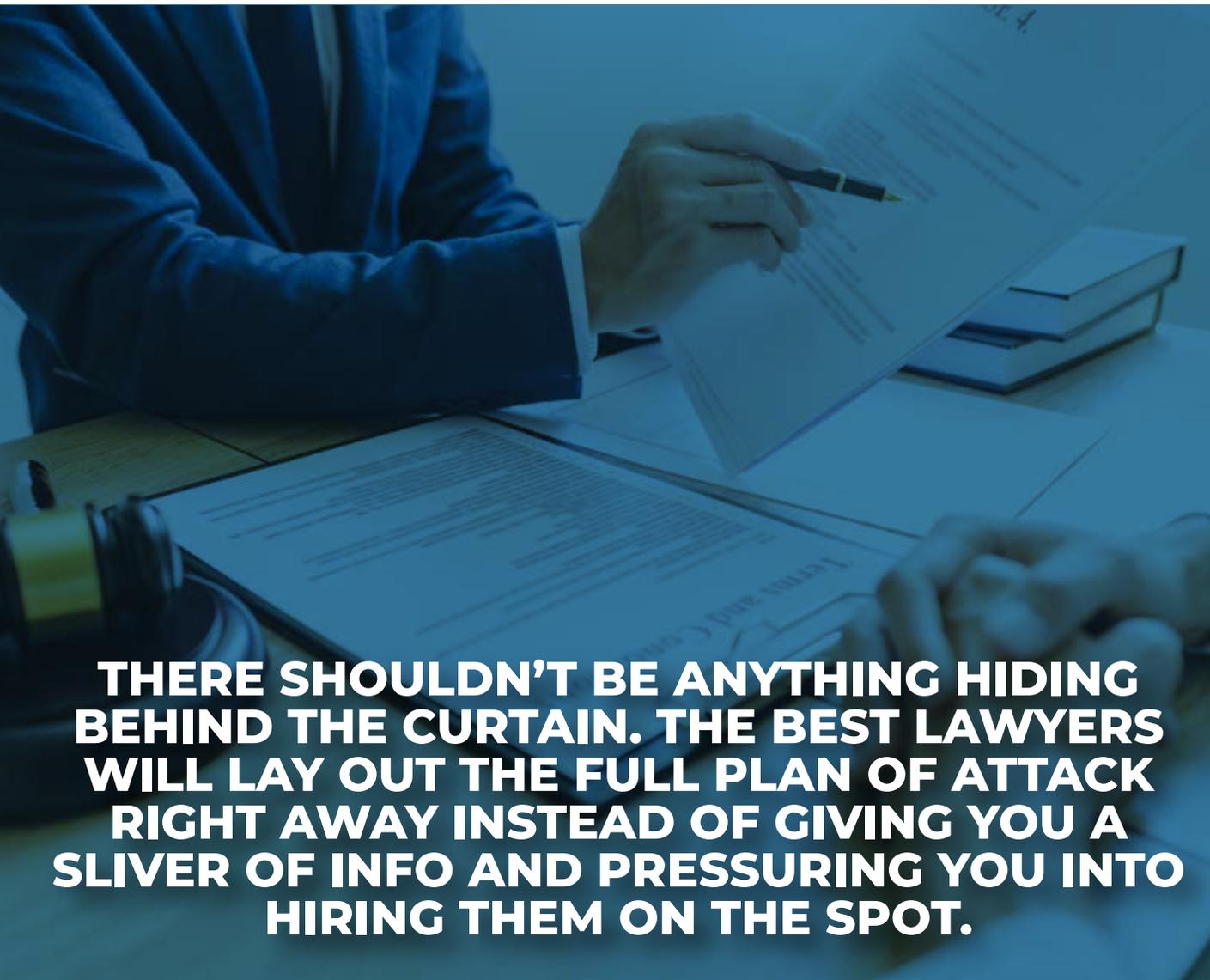
After the case, legal critics shredded the attorney's performance and wrote that Tyson had one of the worst defenses they've ever seen. Why? Because being a multi-million dollar tax attorney doesn't mean you know anything about trying a criminal case.

SO HOW DO YOU CHOOSE THE RIGHT CRIMINAL ATTORNEY?



There are two key factors to focus on: ratings and reviews. Reading about the experiences of former clients will give you good idea of who the attorney is, how well they treats their clients, and how they handles their cases. We recommend reviewing Google Reviews, which is a great source for local reviews in your area.

Once you've found a couple of highly rated attorneys in your area, definitely set up an initial consultation to discuss your case. **During this consultation the lawyer should be focused on educating you about the process and coming up with a solid plan of attack for your defense.**



THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANYTHING HIDING BEHIND THE CURTAIN. THE BEST LAWYERS WILL LAY OUT THE FULL PLAN OF ATTACK RIGHT AWAY INSTEAD OF GIVING YOU A SLIVER OF INFO AND PRESSURING YOU INTO HIRING THEM ON THE SPOT.

Now you may be thinking, aren't I entitled to a public defender? The answer is yes, but there are certain drawbacks to going with a public defender. Keep reading to find out what they are...



BEWARE THE PUBLIC DEFENDER PITFALLS ...



THE BIGGEST ONES ARE TIME AND RESOURCES

A public defender is employed by the state. They are required to take every case assigned to them. What does that mean? **They have a HUGE caseload. They might be assigned to upwards of 200 cases at a time.** And the more cases they have, the less time they are going to spend on yours. They might miss a critical element just because they're so bogged down with other cases. **Also—a public defender gets paid the same amount no matter how many cases they get stuck with, or how many cases they win/lose. They don't have the same incentive to help you. They don't have a business based on referrals.**

YOU WANT SOMEONE WHO HAS A LONG-TERM INTEREST IN YOUR SUCCESS, AND UNFORTUNATELY, PUBLIC DEFENDERS DON'T. PUBLIC DEFENDERS ALSO HAVE FEWER RESOURCES



Their means of helping you are limited by what the state gives them access to. They don't have an array of superior resources available such as private investigators, the way a private attorney does.

The best legal defenses take time and research. That's why you are better off going with a private criminal attorney—one who can devote as much time as is necessary to win your case, and who has the resources to get the job done right.



OR, IF IT'S YOUR LOVED ONE IN JAIL, GET THEM OUT!

Once the cops arrest you, they are taking you down to the station and putting you in a cell.

For most crimes you need to see the magistrate judge. Usually you see them within 24 hours of arrest. This judge will look at facts of your arrest. If it's a victim crime the victim has the right to be there. The judge will then set an appropriate bond amount based on this hearing. Factors they look at will also determine the plan of release.

If it's minor crime they may release you "OR," meaning on your own recognizance. Basically this is your best option. It means you're free and clear to go without monitoring, and without having to put any money down.

The next level is a supervised release or pre-trial release. You don't have to put any money down, but you may have call on the phone or see someone in person to check in (hence the supervised part).

IN BROWARD, IT'S CALLED A PRE-TRIAL RELEASE. IN PALM BEACH, IT'S CALLED SUPERVISED RECOGNIZANCE (SOR). IN MIAMI-DADE, IT'S CALLED MONITORED RELEASE PROGRAM SUPERVISED BY PRE-TRIAL SERVICES (PTS).

In other cases you could be released essentially on probation while trial is going on. This form of release could involve drug tests, anger management, wearing a GPS ankle monitor, or whatever else the court decides is necessary in your particular case. (These stipulations can also be a part of pre-trial release, or supervised recognizance if the circumstances warrant it).

THE JUDGE WILL ALSO DECIDE WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE A BOND AMOUNT TO GET YOU OUT OF JAIL.



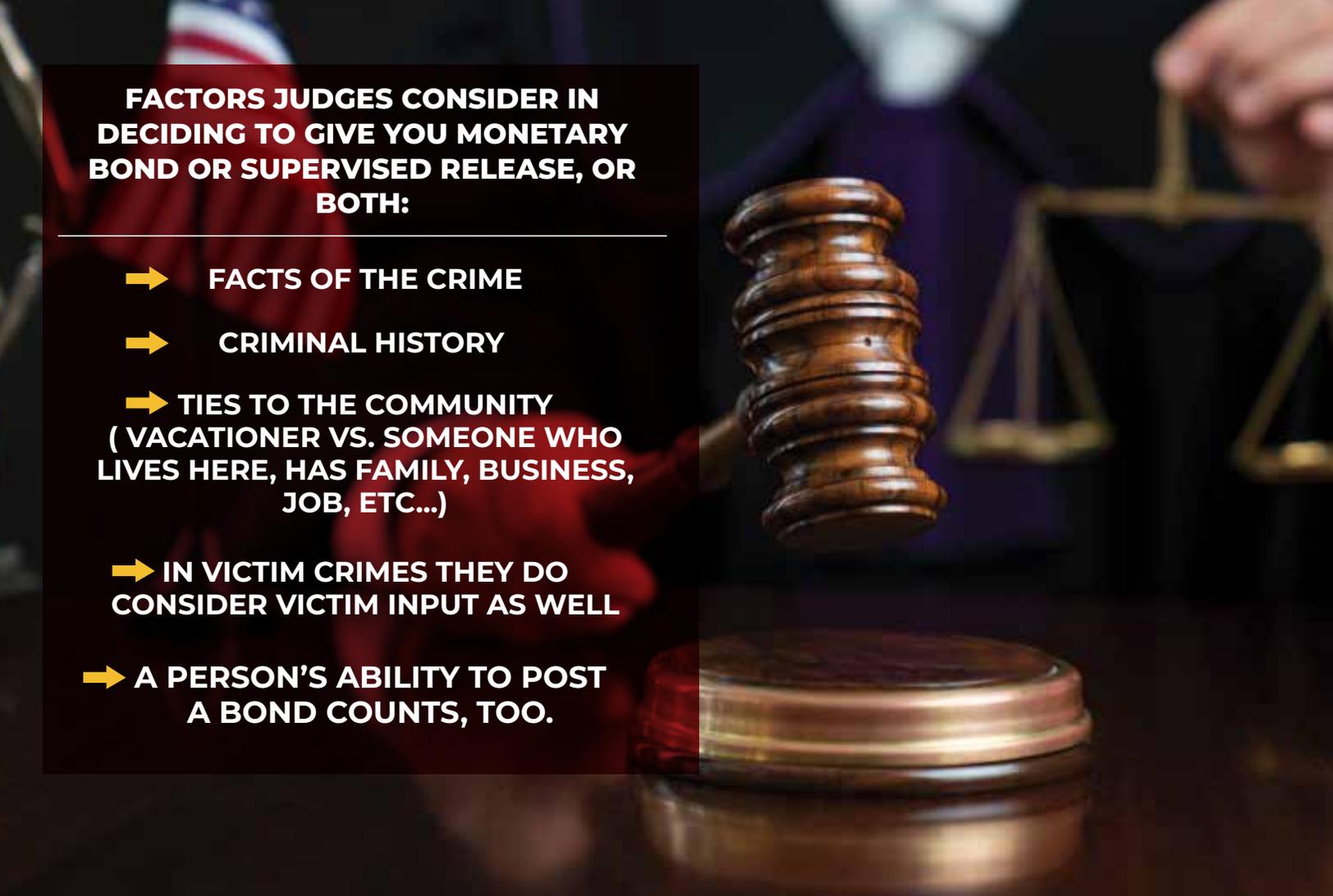
For a DUI in Broward county normally the judge will set a \$500-\$1,000 bond. Depending on the severity of your crime, you could be looking at a bond of \$10,000, \$50,000, \$100,000 or more.



FOR ANY MONETARY BOND AMOUNT YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS:

1 **Pay the bond amount in full.** If you pay the jail the full amount, the person will be out of jail. If your charges are eventually dropped then you'll get all the money back. If there are court costs then they will take them out of the bond money and return the rest to you. A case usually takes 6-18 months, so you'll be tying up a large amount of money for a long period of time. Unfortunately, most people don't have these large amounts of money sitting around, in which case you'll need to go for option two.

2 **Hire a bail bondsman.** You pay him 10% and he pays the rest to get you out. Sometimes they require collateral. If you have a \$10,000 bond, you'd have to pay the bondsman \$1,000. If he requires collateral, you can give him the title to a house or car. If no collateral is required then just pay the \$1,000. If you do this and then don't show up for court, the bail bondsman will turn into a bounty hunter. He'll hunt you down, find you and bring you back to court. Even if the charges are dismissed, you will not get that \$1,000 back. It's their fee and they're keeping it no matter what.



FACTORS JUDGES CONSIDER IN DECIDING TO GIVE YOU MONETARY BOND OR SUPERVISED RELEASE, OR BOTH:

- ➔ **FACTS OF THE CRIME**
- ➔ **CRIMINAL HISTORY**
- ➔ **TIES TO THE COMMUNITY (VACATIONER VS. SOMEONE WHO LIVES HERE, HAS FAMILY, BUSINESS, JOB, ETC...)**
- ➔ **IN VICTIM CRIMES THEY DO CONSIDER VICTIM INPUT AS WELL**
- ➔ **A PERSON'S ABILITY TO POST A BOND COUNTS, TOO.**

THE JUDGE HAS TWO GOALS HERE:

1) TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW UP AT COURT

2) TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY

For example, let's say you're arrested for aggravated assault and the judge is considering how much money to make your bond.

IF YOU'RE A MILLIONAIRE, THEY'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE YOU A \$25,000 BOND BECAUSE THAT WILL DO NOTHING TO GET YOU TO SHOW UP IN COURT. \$25K MEANS NOTHING TO A MILLIONAIRE.

But if you make \$50,000 per year, a \$25,000 bond is a huge amount of money. The judge knows it will force you to show up. Even if you use a bondsman, \$2,500 is still a large amount of money to you.

LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES OF LETTING LOVED ONES SIT IN JAIL



A lot of people we speak with are mad and they say let that person sit, let them sit in jail and learn something. **The less time a person spends in jail, the better.** Jail is not a nice place. It's not a fun place. It's a scary and often violent environment that you don't want to be in.

Too many times we've seen people angry and wanting to leave their loved one in jail as a form of punishment for what they did. Don't do it. It may seem like a good idea when you're upset and angry with the person you're thinking about what's best in the moment and not in the long run. **Maybe it will feel good to "punish" the person in the moment by letting them sit in jail. But it won't work out well in the long run. You don't want them become institutionalized. It can hurt the case too.**

It can hurt the person's ability to help with their own defense and get them out of jail. It's a lot easier for someone to talk to a lawyer when they're out of jail. **All jail phones are recorded. There are jailhouse snitches who will RAT you out, or lie and manipulate.**

They'll take anything you say to them and try to use it against you to get their own sentence reduced. Plus all jail calls are recorded, so you have to be careful what you say. It's better for someone to be out. Jail is not a fun place for anybody.

Usually when family members who let someone sit it's because they want them to "dry out." The person has a drug or alcohol problem and they want to leave them in jail to force them to detox.

Again, this is not a good idea. **Jail is not a safe place to detox. They have nurses and doctors, but they aren't equipped to give a loved one the level of care you would want them to have.** As an alternative we would suggest petitioning the judge to grant a conditional pretrial release that requires detox. Ask the judge to make rehab a requirement. That way if the person doesn't comply they will have to go back to jail. This is a better way to go because it stops your loved one from being criminalized. Also instead of sticking them in a cell, you're getting them help.

Addiction is mental. They need help. This help is better found outside of jail.



03

STEP #3

RECORD EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED



This step is critical. When are details fresh in your mind? Right after something happens. A week, two weeks, a month, a few months go by and your memory just isn't as sharp. You'll find you've forgotten tiny details about what happened. Certain things become fuzzy. But these details could be critical to your case.

Aside from making sure you have everything straight, there's another very important reason why you need to know exactly what happened... so your attorney can go gather evidence to help with your defense!

Not all evidence lasts forever. Some evidence that could exonerate you can even disappear in 24 hours. For example, let's say you were arrested for a robbery at a gas station and the police tell you they have you on surveillance camera. But you know you were never at that gas station. **Well those surveillance cameras don't record everything indefinitely. In fact, many of them will only record for 24 hours.** After that they start over, recording over everything from the previous day. So what does that mean for you? That key evidence could be wiped out because you didn't think to get it on time.

Remembering key details can help produce evidence too. Did anyone call the cops? If so, there's a 911 tape out there that could be critical to your defense. **But the state is only required to save the audio recording for 30 days. After that you probably won't be able to access it.** Instead you'd only have access to the computer transcripts.

Not having access to the audiotape can make the difference between winning and losing a case. We've seen it happen many times in our own practice. Below are two examples where the 911 audiotapes were the most important factor in winning a defendant's case.



EXAMPLE #1

One of our clients was arrested on an attempted murder charge, which is a serious felony that carries hefty prison sentences. His girlfriend claimed that he was chasing her around the house with two knives in his hands and trying to stab her. But the audiotape told a completely different story...

On the tape the woman sounded annoyed, not scared. Her breath was steady and even, indicating that she was not running around the house, contradicting her claim that he was chasing her.

ON THE TAPE THE 911 OPERATOR ALSO ASKS THE WOMAN IF THERE IS ANYONE ELSE IN THE HOME. THE WOMAN CALMLY RESPONDS THAT HER 3-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER IS IN THE HOUSE, BUT SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS. IF YOUR CRAZED BOYFRIEND IS COMING AFTER YOU WITH KNIVES, WOULDN'T YOU BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF YOUR CHILD?

Based on this audiotape we managed to get our client's case dismissed.

But imagine if more than 30 days had passed and we hadn't been able to get the audio? The transcripts would not have conveyed that the woman was annoyed, or calm. They wouldn't have stated whether she was huffing or puffing as if she had just ran all over the house. Without that tape we would have lost a very critical piece of evidence.

EXAMPLE #2



Another client of ours was accused of aggravated assault with a firearm. He got into a car accident on 595. The police came and left. Then the tow truck driver arrived. Our client was accused of pulling a gun and threatening to shoot the tow truck driver and arrested on the spot.

He hired us the next day and told us it was self-defense, and that the tow truck driver had been threatening him. **We pulled the 911 tape immediately and it contradicted the tow truck driver's story. One of the elements required to establish assault is that the victim was placed in a state of fear. But on the 911 tape the tow truck driver didn't sound scared at all. He just sounded annoyed.**

WHEN WE SUBMITTED THIS EVIDENCE TO THE PROSECUTION THEY DROPPED THE CASE. OUR CLIENT WAS FREE.

04

STEP #4

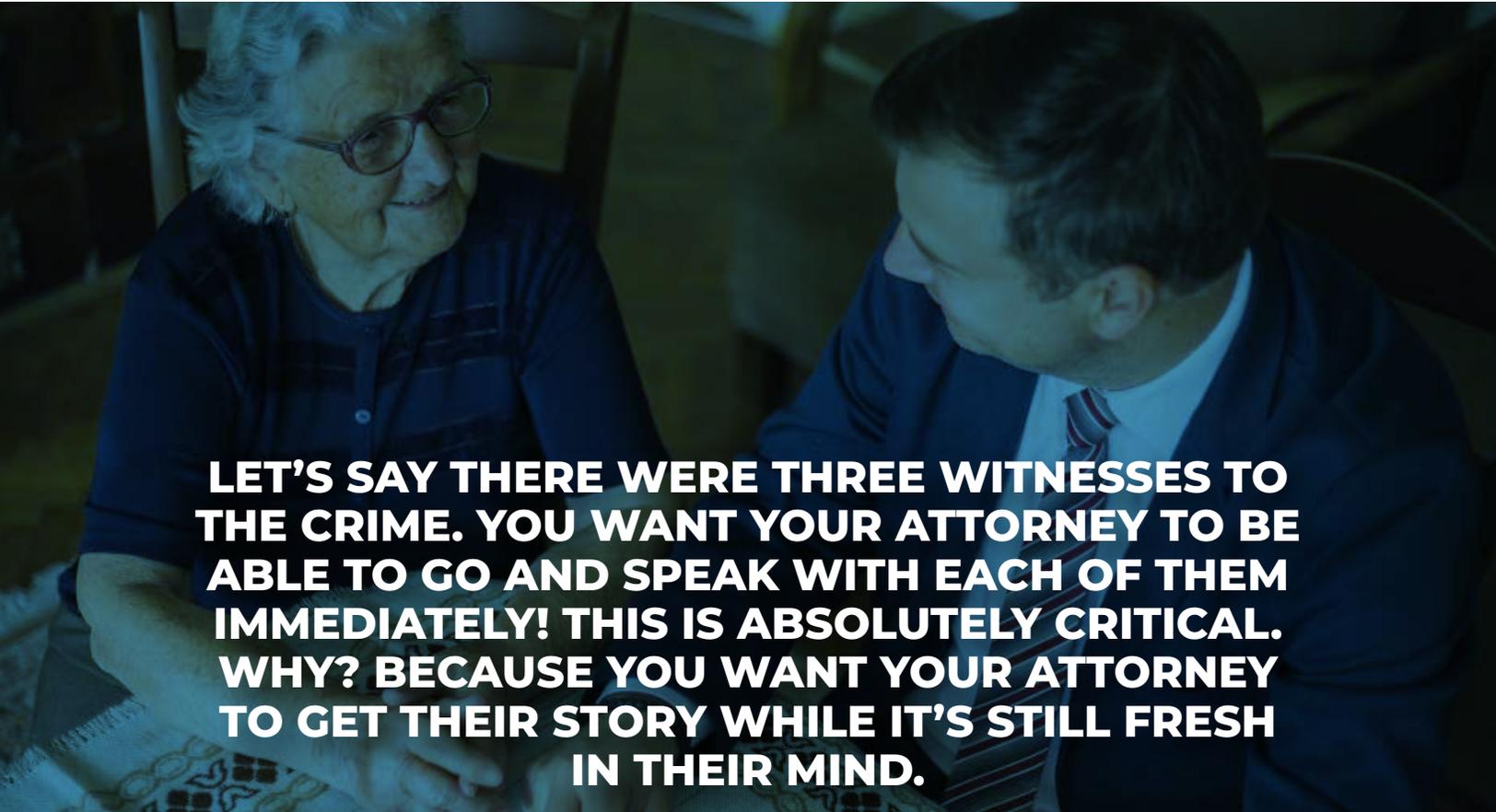
LIST ALL POTENTIAL EVIDENCE



INCLUDING WITNESSES!

Now that you've written down exactly what happened it's time to think of every single person and thing that can help prove your innocence.

Again, you'll want to do this while they are fresh in your mind. Not only will this ensure that you remember every piece of evidence that could possibly help you, but it will also make sure your attorney has the chance to gather all of it for you as quickly as possible.



LET'S SAY THERE WERE THREE WITNESSES TO THE CRIME. YOU WANT YOUR ATTORNEY TO BE ABLE TO GO AND SPEAK WITH EACH OF THEM IMMEDIATELY! THIS IS ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL. WHY? BECAUSE YOU WANT YOUR ATTORNEY TO GET THEIR STORY WHILE IT'S STILL FRESH IN THEIR MIND.

Witnesses are human too, and their short-term memory is likely to get fuzzy as well. But the problem for you is that if their memory gets fuzzy, it could very well be the reason you end up in jail.

According to research by the Innocence Project, misidentification by an eyewitness is the leading cause of wrongful convictions. It's been a factor in 72% of the cases that have later been overturned with the help of DNA evidence.

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT THE HUMAN MIND IS NOT LIKE A TAPE RECORDER; WE NEITHER RECORD EVENTS EXACTLY AS WE SEE THEM, NOR RECALL THEM LIKE A TAPE THAT HAS BEEN REWOUND. INSTEAD, WITNESS MEMORY IS LIKE ANY OTHER EVIDENCE AT A CRIME SCENE; IT MUST BE PRESERVED CAREFULLY AND RETRIEVED METHODICALLY, OR IT CAN BE CONTAMINATED.

- THE INNOCENCE PROJECT



We've seen witness misidentification plenty of times in our own cases.

One of our former clients was accused of trying to run the car of a rival neighborhood gang off the road. Our client was a white male who was in the car with 3 other guys, one who was black, and two who were mixed. But when we pulled the audiotape the "victim" told the 911 operator that there were 4 black males in a car chasing and throwing stuff at him.

Clearly the "victim's" statement made it impossible that our client was the one trying to run him off the road. The "victim" saw 4 black males, and our client was a skinny, young white guy. Also, rival gangs would most likely know each other's identities, further putting holes in his account of the situation.

This is why it's crucial to write down all potential witnesses to a crime. You never know which one may have information that could help make or break your case.



IN FLORIDA'S COURT PROCEEDINGS, ATTORNEYS CAN WAIVE THEIR CLIENT'S PHYSICAL PRESENCE, EXCEPT FOR KEY MOMENTS LIKE PLEAS, TRIALS, OR CERTAIN MOTIONS.

This is done via a written waiver filed with the court, stating the client's informed consent for the attorney to act on their behalf. It's a helpful tool when clients can't attend each hearing due to factors such as out-of-state residence or health concerns.

KEY MOMENTS REQUIRING CLIENT PRESENCE INCLUDE:

Entering a Plea: The client must be present to formally respond to charges.

During Trial: The client's presence is mandatory to participate directly in their defense.

For Certain Motions: If a motion like a motion to suppress evidence requires the client's personal testimony, their presence is essential.

Waiving a client's appearance is a valuable part of Florida's court procedure, offering convenience while ensuring justice at crucial junctures.

However, consultation with an experienced attorney is vital to understand the specifics and implications of such waivers.



05 **STEP #5** **GET BACK TO NORMAL**

This is not always easy to do. It's hard to get back to normal when you're unsure of what will happen to you. But it's important.

There are a lot of things to deal with after an arrest. You've got interviews, depositions, court hearings, and a lot of stress.

Depending on what you were arrested for, you could be looking at years in prison.



**THE STRESS IS
OVERWHELMING.**

Many times I've seen people get themselves in more trouble just from stress. It paralyzes them. And then they can't do what they're supposed to be doing. They aren't going to work. They aren't taking care of the kids.

When this happens, things go south quickly.

All of a sudden you've got new forms of stress piling up. You've got family problems. You might lose your job. And you're not doing what you need to be doing to win your case. Not a good situation to be in.

THAT'S WHY AFTER ARREST YOU HAVE TO GET BACK TO NORMAL.

GET BACK TO NORMAL



Sometimes that requires the help of a therapist. We've seen plenty of cases where clients feel so guilty over what they've done, that even after their case they have trouble moving on.

For example, take our client Sarah, who was arrested for shoplifting. Sarah had never gotten in trouble before. She was the straight A student who never did anything wrong. **We managed to get**

Sarah into the theft diversion program, and all of the charges against her were dropped. But the guilt was still eating away at her. She'd hear police sirens and start panicking. Finally we recommended a therapist to Sarah, who helped her put the incident behind her and get back to normal.

YOU CANNOT FUNCTION PROPERLY WHEN YOU'RE OVERCOME WITH GUILT OR FEAR. IN FACT YOU'RE MORE LIKELY TO GET INTO MORE TROUBLE. THAT'S WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF. YOU'LL WANT TO BE IN THE BEST CONDITION POSSIBLE TO AID IN YOUR OWN SELF-DEFENSE, AND TO MAKE RATIONAL DECISIONS.



HOW AN EXPERT CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY NAVIGATES A CASE



A criminal defense attorney's role is both complex and critical, requiring a skillful blend of analysis, negotiation, and advocacy. This is realized through a series of crucial steps in the legal process.

Reviewing Discovery:

The attorney starts by scrutinizing the prosecution's evidence, searching for weaknesses or errors that could undermine their case. This evidence could range from police reports and witness statements to lab results and surveillance footage.

Taking Depositions:

Occasionally, a defense attorney will take depositions, or under-oath statements, from witnesses or parties in the case. This process can help assess the reliability of the witness and provide useful insights for the defense strategy.

Filing Motions to Suppress:

If evidence appears to have been obtained illegally or improperly, the defense attorney may file a motion to suppress, preventing the contested evidence from being presented at trial.

Negotiating with Prosecutors:

Often, defense attorneys engage in plea bargaining with prosecutors to reduce charges or lessen the sentence. This process depends heavily on the attorney's understanding of the law and the strength of the prosecution's case.

Going to Trial:

If negotiations fail or the defense sees a good chance of acquittal, the case goes to trial. Here, the defense attorney presents their arguments, challenges the prosecution's case, and strives to create reasonable doubt among the jurors.

In essence, a criminal defense attorney's work is a challenging blend of strategic planning, negotiation, and courtroom advocacy, all aimed at ensuring the best possible outcome for their client. Their role is pivotal in upholding the justice system's principle of "innocent until proven guilty."



HOW TO

CHOOSE THE RIGHT CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY

When searching for the right criminal defense attorney for you, there are 4 key factors that you want to look for:

✓ Awards and Reviews

The experiences of former clients will give you a good idea of how well the firm handles their cases, so Google Reviews are a great place to start. Awards and certifications are also great indicators of attorney excellence. Look to see if there are Board Certified attorneys on their team, as a Florida Bar Board Certification is the highest evaluation of experience in criminal law. Additional accolades you might want to look at are Martindale-Hubbell awards, SuperLawyers, National Criminal Defense College, and National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

✓ Local Experience

A local law firm is the way to go. Attorneys who have experience in the county where your case occurred will have built relationships with prosecutors, judges, Law Enforcement Officers, DMV hearing officers, and other key players in the system. This means they can get you a home-court advantage.

✓ Criminal Defense Experts

You want an attorney who is a master of criminal defense cases. Since criminal cases are unlike any other, a criminal defense lawyer will have a level of expertise that will serve you well. They know the system inside and out and they know the law down to the letter. The best criminal defense lawyers in the game know that an “unbeatable” charge is never truly unbeatable.

✓ Power of the Team

When hiring a firm, there are so many more people working on your case than just one lawyer. Multiple attorneys will combine strengths and work the same cases. Legal assistants handle the delicate behind-the-scenes paperwork and preparation. Even the front desk is going to be your access point to the whole defense team. Think of it this way: would you rather have a lone wolf? Or the entire wolf pack?



TEN ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE HIRING A CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Hint: If you can't answer YES to all these questions: DON'T HIRE

- Was it easy to get in touch with the firm?
- Was the meeting all about me and not the attorney?
- Did the attorney pay attention to the details of my case?
- Did the attorney lay out a plan of action?
- Did the attorney welcome and answer any questions I had?
- Is this attorney an expert in criminal law?
- Was the staff and attorney attentive to my needs?
- Did the attorney explain how they can beat my case?
- Did the attorney explain how a Motion to Suppress works?
- Is this attorney willing to fight for me?

WHAT FORMER CLIENTS SAY



Rossen law firm will now ALWAYS be our first call if ever in need. I would not refer a soul anywhere else for help. In a time where nerves and fear are at an all time high. They not only resolved our problems but they made us feel at ease and SECURE! They were ALWAYS on point with everything and had the experience that was needed. Thank you Rossen law truly from my family to yours.

-Ray M.



In one of the most stressful times in my life, Rossen Law Firm was there for me. Leaving no stone unturned they provided patience and knowledge in every detail of my case. I'm very thankful and proud of this law firm family.

-Kevin T.



We hired Rossen Law Firm to represent my son cases and I must say, Susan, Scott, Shanee and the Whole Rossen Law Firm did an Amazing job representing and having all the charges dismissed and acquitted. I highly recommend anyone looking for criminal lawyers Rossen is the firm to Hire. They mean BUSINESS! I'm forever Thankful and so is my entire Family !

-Bare B.



I can't put it into words my amazing experience with the Rossen law firm. I call them to take over my criminal case giving them limited time to work with, but still took on my case with high optimism of the challenge. I was very paranoid, skeptical on going to trial but as I got more closer to my attorneys in communication I felt more relax that I had hire the right team to represent me.

-Jose C.



When a family member was arrested and jailed we were panicked. We had no experience dealing with criminal cases and had no idea what to do. We called a close family friend who highly recommended the Rossen Law Firm. We called and they went to work on the case immediately. They calmly talked us through what we had to do and had our relative released on bond within 24 hours. While this was an extremely traumatic experience for our family, the Rossen Law Firm was with us every step of the way.

-Judith Z.



KEEP IN TOUCH!

WE HELP GOOD PEOPLE WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA
@ROSSENLAWFIRM!

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