

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP IN YOUR CRIMINAL DEFENSE

1. You must attend Court when the Court tells you to be there. Please be on time for all court appearances. If you do not attend Court as directed, you will not only be hurting the Firm's ability to prepare your defense, but the judge may also issue a "bench warrant" for your arrest. If you don't return to Court when directed, you could also be charged with the crime of Bail Jumping. If you cannot be on-time, call the Firm at 898-3190 or on the Firm emergency line of 280-4954.

2. When you appear in Court, dress appropriate, preferably in "Sunday best." Try to avoid wearing t-shirts with messages on them or jeans.

3. Tell your lawyer as soon as you change your address, telephone number, employment or email address.

4. Do not contact any police officers who were involved in your matter or anyone who either was the alleged victim or who is listed as a witness in any papers you were given. If a family member is a witness or a victim, you can talk with them, but do not discuss the case with them at all.

5. Do not talk to any prosecutor or police officer – even about other cases – without first call the Firm. If a prosecutor or police officer speaks with you, tell him or her that you have an attorney representing you and given the person my name. Say nothing else. If you receive any letters from the district attorney or the police, please notify me immediately.

6. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD YOU CONTACT THE JUDGE IN ANY WAY ABOUT THIS CASE.

7. Telling your lawyer the truth in all discussions is crucial to that lawyer's being able to effectively represent you. You should understand your one-on-one conversations with any lawyer are usually covered by the **attorney-client privilege** and, therefore, you should feel free to tell a lawyer any fact you think is relevant - no matter how bad that fact may seem to you.

8. The "attorney-client privilege" has limits. This privilege allows a lawyer to refuse to disclose the contents of our conversations. That privilege does not prevent the prosecution from asking other people to disclose what you have said. Lawyers must also disclose what you tell us if you tell us that you are going to commit a crime. For that reason, it is usually a good idea not to discuss the facts of your case with anyone else, not even friends or family. You can and should feel free to ask the advice of others about your options, so long as you do not discuss the facts.

9. YOU are your own chief investigator. If you know of anyone who could help

your case, give their names and addresses to your lawyer.

10. You have many rights. These rights include the right to a trial and the right to plead not guilty. The prosecution has the burden of proof. This means that in order to convict, the district attorney's office must prove you guilty, rather than you proving yourself innocent. The prosecutor must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. You also have the right to seek suppression of any unconstitutionally obtained evidence.

11. At trial you may call witnesses in your defense, but you are not required to do so. You can testify, but you don't have to do so.

12. You may give up these trial rights and enter a plea of guilty. If you are considering whether to plead guilty or to accept a plea offer to plead guilty, you should expect your lawyer will help you make that decision by analyzing the good and bad results of that decision. The decision is yours alone and you have the right to expect that your lawyer will let you make that decision. Please always remember that a guilty plea has the same effect as a conviction after trial.

13. If you are sentenced, you have the right to appeal. To exercise this right, a Notice of Appeal must be filed within 30 days of the day you are sentenced. If you are financially unable to pay for an appeal, you are entitled to have counsel assigned to carry forward your appeal and have all costs paid by the State of New York.

14. If you are found not guilty at trial, of course, no punishment can be imposed upon you.