



LEGAL FIRST AID

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ARREST EDITION

“I AM BEING ARRESTED. WHAT DO I DO?”

1. **DON'T PANIC.**
2. **REMAIN CALM AND POLITE.**
DO NOT FIGHT, ARGUE, OR RESIST.
3. **POLITELY DECLINE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.**
AS ALWAYS, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. USE IT. YOUR JOB IS NOT TO HELP THE POLICE, BUT TO PROTECT YOURSELF. NOTHING YOU SAY RIGHT NOW WILL HELP YOU. WHEN THE POLICE THEMSELVES ARE BEING INVESTIGATED, THEY KNOW NOT TO TALK WITHOUT A LAWYER; IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR THEM, IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU.
4. **ASK POLITELY WHAT YOU ARE BEING ARRESTED FOR AND WHERE YOU ARE BEING TAKEN.**
THIS INFORMATION WILL BE HELPFUL TO WHOEVER IS GOING TO HELP SECURE YOUR RELEASE.
5. **GIVE INSTRUCTIONS TO A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER.**
YOUR FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO DO THIS MAY BE IN A PHONE CALL FROM THE JAIL. ASK YOUR LOVED ONE TO CALL A BONDING COMPANY (WE RECOMMEND BURNS BAIL BONDS, 713.227.3400) TO TRY TO BAIL YOU OUT. ALSO ASK THEM TO GET YOU A LAWYER.
6. **CONTINUE TO EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.**
IF THE POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING A SERIOUS CRIME, THEY MAY ATTEMPT TO INTERROGATE YOU AT THE JAIL. LISTEN TO YOUR MIRANDA RIGHTS, AND EXERCISE THEM. ASK FOR A LAWYER. ASK TO TERMINATE THE INTERVIEW. OTHERWISE REMAIN SILENT.
6. **HIRE A LAWYER.**
JUST AS FIRST AID IS NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE EXPERT MEDICAL ATTENTION, LEGAL FIRST AID IS NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE EXPERT LEGAL ASSISTANCE, BUT ONLY TO STABILIZE THE SITUATION UNTIL YOU CAN GET SUCH ASSISTANCE. THERE ARE THINGS THAT A COMPETENT LAWYER CAN DO IMMEDIATELY TO IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING THE CASE. IT IS BEST TO HIRE COMPETENT COUNSEL WITHIN A DAY OF YOUR ARREST.