

Florida Criminal Defense Attorney

I help individuals who have been arrested for any type of crime whether it be a misdemeanor, felony, juvenile charge or DUI. Our attorneys have over 45 years of legal experience to help you fight the State and defend your rights in all of your case.

If you have been arrested there are a few things you should know.

You do not have to speak to law enforcement at any time unless YOU choose to speak with them. You also have a right to have an attorney present at anytime, however you must request one. Both of these rights are protected by the 5th and 6th amendment to the United States Constitution and are interpreted by the case Miranda v. Arizona, 384 U.S. 436 (1966), hence the term Miranda Rights.

A person arrested for a misdemeanor must be brought to trial within 90 days, or 175 days if charged with a felony. If the defendant is not brought to trial within this time period, the case may be forever dismissed.

Once arrested, an individual, now known as the defendant, is taken to the jail where they are held for their First Appearance. A First Appearance is when a judge reviews the case to determine a bond amount. Each crime has a set bond amount determined by a bond schedule. The First Appearance Judge may raise, lower, or keep the bond amount the same based on the facts of the case. After the First Appearance, an Arraignment date is set.

An Arraignment is when the Court reads officially informs the defendant what crime or crimes the State has filed against them. At the Arraignment, a person is given to opportunity to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty. If the plea is not guilty, a determination is made if a public defender will be appointed or if the individual can afford to hire a private attorney. A Case Management Conference date is set by the Clerk.

A Case Management Conference is a hearing where the presiding judge is given an update on the progress of the case. During this time period between the Arraignment and Case Management Conference, the State and the defendant's attorney will exchange discovery, interview witnesses, and possibly file motions. This is also the time for negotiating a plea deal.

If the case is not resolved at the Case Management Conference, a trial date will be set. At trial, the State and Defendant will present their arguments to a jury who ultimately decides the guilt or innocence of the defendant.

It is extremely important that you consult with an attorney experienced in criminal defense. The State is working hard to try to convict you and strip you of your Constitutional rights. Our attorneys combined training and experience in the criminal justice system create an experienced, dedicated, and aggressive criminal defense team. Due to that experience, our attorneys understand your rights, know your options, and give you the knowledge of what to expect while you are facing the allegations against you.