

IF YOU'VE BEEN CHARGED WITH A CRIME, DON'T GO IT ALONE. YOU NEED A LAWYER TO HELP YOU.

WHETHER YOU'RE GUILTY OR NOT, A LAWYER CAN:

- Fight the charges.
- Get the judge to let you out of detention.
- Find out what other people are saying you did.
- Make a deal for you with a prosecutor.
- Question the witnesses against you, and try to show that they're lying or mistaken.
- Get your witnesses to come to court.
- Show that the police have violated your rights.
- Argue that the evidence against you should be thrown out.
- Make arguments to the judge for a lighter punishment.
- Keep you out of jail, and come up with another solution.
- Get your fines and costs lowered.
- Keep your case in juvenile court.
- Get counseling for you and your family, if you want it.



MY LAWYER IS _____
PHONE# _____
ADDRESS _____

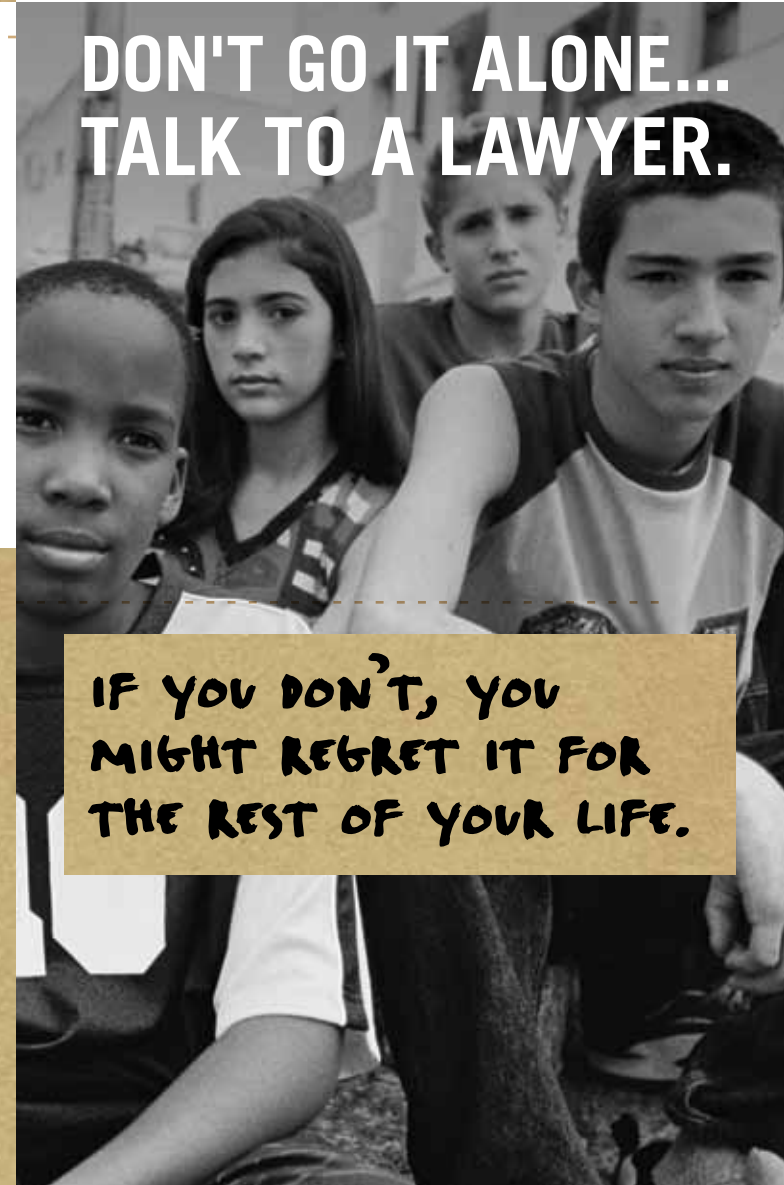


THE KNOX COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S
COMMUNITY LAW OFFICE

CHARGED WITH A CRIME?

DON'T GO IT ALONE...
TALK TO A LAWYER.

IF YOU DON'T, YOU
MIGHT REGRET IT FOR
THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.



DANGERS OF PLEADING GUILTY.

SOMETIMES PLEADING GUILTY IS THE BEST OPTION, BUT A LAWYER IS TRAINED TO HELP YOU FIGURE OUT WHETHER IT'S THE BEST OPTION IN YOUR CASE. **BEFORE YOU MAKE THAT DECISION, TALK TO A LAWYER!**

PLEADING GUILTY IN JUVENILE COURT COULD AFFECT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

IF YOU ADMIT THAT YOU COMMITTED A CRIME IN JUVENILE COURT, YOU COULD:

- Be locked up in jail until you are 19.
- Be on probation until you are 19, which means having to report to a probation officer, having a strict curfew, and submitting to random drug testing.
- Have your learner's permit or driver's license suspended.
- Get kicked out of your current school.
- Get kicked out of public housing.
- Be banned from serving in the military.
- Have criminal records that future employers and schools can ask you about.
- Be banned from working as a police officer, commercial driver, counselor, nurse, landscape architect, private investigator or teacher, if you did certain crimes.

PLEADING GUILTY COULD ALSO COST YOU AND YOUR PARENTS A LOT OF MONEY.

- You could be forced to pay probation costs and fines.
- You and your parents could be forced to pay court costs and pay back any damage you did.



TAKE THESE STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF IF YOU ARE ACCUSED OF A CRIME.

- Ask for a lawyer to be appointed to you. All you have to say is, "I want a lawyer."
- Do not talk about your case with anyone except your lawyer.
- Do not plead guilty or admit to the charges without a lawyer.
- Get the lawyer's phone number and give your phone number and address.
- If you're not in detention, make an appointment to see the lawyer as soon as possible.
- Talk to the lawyer about your case and ask all of your questions.
- Discuss your options with the lawyer and find out what might happen with each option.
- Think carefully about your decisions and the advise your lawyer is giving you.



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