

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS WITHOUT ATTORNEYS

Non-criminal citations: The District Attorney's Office is unable to discuss your case (in person, in writing or by phone) prior to the court date on your citation.

All traffic/ordinance citations: If you would like to discuss your case with the Rock County District Attorney's Office *after* your initial appearance but prior to the next court date, please contact us by calling (608) 757-5615. One of the Assistant District Attorneys will review and discuss your case with you. It may be possible to resolve your case before the trial date. It is not a requirement of the Court that you discuss your case with the District Attorney. Such a meeting is strictly voluntary. *If you are or intend to be represented by an attorney, you must communicate with the District Attorney only through your attorney.*

Attorneys and staff at the District Attorney's Office do **not** represent you. They represent the State/County and are seeking to convict you. They cannot give you legal advice (including whether you need a lawyer or not) and cannot help you complete any forms. Wisconsin Supreme Court Rule 20:3.8 provides in part that prosecutors may discuss the matter with an unrepresented person, provide information regarding and negotiate a settlement, which may include a waiver of constitutional and statutory rights, but shall not provide legal advice to defendants, including, but not limited to whether to get a lawyer, whether to accept or reject a settlement offer, whether to waive an important procedural right, or give an opinion as to how the court or a jury is likely to rule on the case. Specifically, prosecutors shall not assist a defendant in the completion of guilty plea forms, forms for the waiver of a preliminary hearing, forms for the waiver of a jury, or appellate rights forms.

Your rights include, but are not limited to, the following:

To have an attorney represent you at all stages of your case.

If charged with a crime,

- have an attorney appointed by the state public defender if you are unable to afford an attorney.
- Ask the court to find you indigent (impoverished) or partially indigent and appoint a court-appointed attorney if found not eligible for a public defender (may be required to pay the county for fees paid to the court-appointed attorney).

Hire an attorney at your own expense.

To represent yourself and act as your own attorney.

If you are charged with a crime, you may contact the **State Public Defender's Office by calling (608) 758-6170, or by visiting their office located at 101 E. Milwaukee St., Suite 503, Janesville, WI (corner of East Milwaukee Street and Main Street).**