

## Important Information for Clients

## **Auburn Edition**

The Placer County Public Defender has been appointed to represent you. An attorney from our office will be assigned to your case. Your attorney will be able to provide you with answers to your legal questions and to tell you how the law applies to your case, so it is extremely important that you maintain contact with us.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

**DO NOT TALK WITH ANYONE ABOUT YOUR CASE(S), EXCEPT YOUR ATTORNEY OR AN INVESTIGATOR FROM OUR OFFICE.** You may discuss anything concerning your case with your attorney because these matters are confidential under the law.

Remember: This confidential privilege extends only to discussions between you, your attorney, and your attorney's staff. Anything that you tell your family, friends, bail bondsmen, probation officers, parole officers, police officers, or others such as cellmates is **NOT** confidential, and the court can compel those people to testify about what you said whether they want to testify or not.

DO NOT TALK WITH WITNESSES OR CO-DEFENDANTS ABOUT THE CASE.

**IF YOU ARE IN CUSTODY, DO NOT TALK TO ANYONE ABOUT YOUR CASE(S) ON THE PHONE OR DURING A SOCIAL VISIT.** All jail visits and phone calls are tape recorded and all letters are copied, except with the Public Defender's Office.

**ALWAYS INFORM YOUR ATTORNEY ABOUT ANY PENDING CASES,** even if they are in other counties. If you are taken to court on another charge, tell the court that you are represented by an attorney from the Placer County Public Defender's Office and you want an attorney appointed. **DO NOT** plead guilty to any charges in other cases, courts, or different counties, including misdemeanors and infractions, without talking to your attorney first.

**ALWAYS TELL LAW ENFORCEMENT, BEFORE YOU TALK TO THEM, THAT YOU WANT YOUR ATTORNEY PRESENT. DO NOT** attempt to make a deal with the police, sheriff, or your probation or parole officer to obtain a release from jail, a dismissal, or a lenient sentence. *Your attorney is the only person who can ensure that any deal made with law enforcement is fair and that you receive the benefit of the agreement.* 

**COURT & CONDUCT:** It is very important to be present on time to every court date. If you need to tell the court Information, first tell your attorney and make sure you get her/his approval. Keep a low voice so that others do not hear your statements. Always be polite and respectful of the Judge, district attorney, sheriff's officers, and staff.

**IF YOU MISS YOUR COURT DATE:** If you are out on bail, contact your bail-bonds agent and get a letter saying that they agree to reinstate you on your bail bond. If you are charged with a felony, contact your attorney to get back on the calendar or turn yourself into the jail. If you are charged with a misdemeanor, you may go to court clerk's office at the Bill Santucci Justice Center in Roseville and put yourself on calendar or turn yourself into the jail. As it is a crime to fail to appear in court, you should put yourself back on calendar immediately.

**FORGET YOUR COURT DATE?** Look it up on the court website:

www.placer.courts.ca.gov/court-calendars\_3.html

**PLEASE SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT** with your attorney/investigator within 3-5 days after your first court date by contacting the Public Defender's Office at 916-644-1100. If you are out of custody or released from custody, make sure you call your attorney **AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR TO YOUR NEXT COURT DATE.** You can prepare for your interview by having names, addresses, and phone numbers of any witnesses and/or other documents/information you think may be helpful or important to your case.

Appointment with Attorney/Investigator:	Date	Time	$\bigcirc$	In-person interview	$\bigcirc$	Telephone
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