

# 3 STEPS TO STAY FREE

We are The Innocent's Guide - the first nonprofit dedicated to the prevention of false convictions. Our goal is to ensure no innocent person is ever imprisoned for a crime they did not commit. You can drastically reduce the chance of going to prison by following these 3 steps if accused of a crime you did not commit.



1% to 10% of all inmates in prison are **innocent**. **No one** knows how many plead guilty since they couldn't afford to fight back.



## STEP 1 (THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP!)

# DON'T TALK TO THE POLICE

If the Miranda Rights are read to you (You have the right to remain silent, anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law....) say this immediately after the police are done:

**"I want a lawyer"**

Then shut up! If the police are persistent, say it again and remain quiet.

## WHY?

This is what everybody in the legal system does. No lawyer, prosecutor, judge, bailiff, sheriff, police officer, etc willingly make statements when under suspicion. They invoke their right to remain silent or for an attorney and shut up. Do the same.

"...any lawyer worth his salt will tell the suspect in no uncertain terms to make no statements to the police under any circumstances." - Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson, *Watts v. Indiana*, 338 U.S. 49, 59 (1949)

## STEP 2

# HIRE A GOOD LAWYER

Tens of thousands of law students pass the bar exam every year. There are more than a million licensed lawyers. Are they good? **Don't wait until trial to find out.**

1. Verify if they are legally able to practice and check disciplinary history using your state's bar association website. For example <https://www.texasbar.com> <https://www.calbar.ca.gov>
2. Screen them before signing a contract or paying a deposit. Were they professional? How many years of experience do they have? Have they represented someone with similar circumstances to you? Ask questions unique to your situation.
3. Here is a good tip if you need help finding a criminal defense lawyer; ask a lawyer in a different field for a recommendation. Go to your insurance provider, job, place of worship, etc and ask around. Most lawyers wouldn't want to ruin their own reputation by recommending a subpar lawyer.



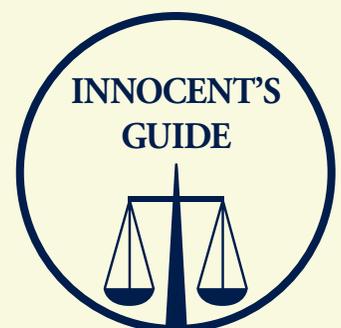
## STEP 3

# BE PROACTIVE!

Don't just leave it all to your attorney. Tell them the truth (never lie to your lawyer) and listen to what they have to say. Ask what you can do to help. Call your lawyer and ask for updates.

Finally, your lawyer is likely to advise you to not talk about your case to anyone.

**Please listen to them!**



This is for informational purposes only. Do not construe this as legal advice. Please consult an attorney in your jurisdiction for legal advice.