

# POWER, NOT PANIC

The San Francisco Public Defender wants you to know that you have rights! Keep this information close so that in moments of crisis, you'll feel power, not panic.

We stand ready to defend you in court, support you, and ensure you never face these challenges alone. It is our mission to protect your rights and to confront injustice.

Our community programs support young people on a positive path and aim to help all of our clients to not just survive, but thrive.

**Elected San Francisco  
Public Defender Mano Raju**



## CONTACT US

### San Francisco Public Defender's Office

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[www.sfpublicdefender.org](http://www.sfpublicdefender.org)

 [@sfpublicdefender](https://www.instagram.com/sfpublicdefender)



**SAN FRANCISCO  
PUBLIC DEFENDER**

Greater than one.

**KNOW**

**YOUR**

**RIGHTS!**

**KNOWLEDGE =  
POWER**

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## STOPPED BY POLICE

- Ask, "Why did you stop me? What is your badge number?"
- Tell them, "I do not consent to a search."
- Ask, "Am I free to go?"
- If detained, tell them, "I want a lawyer. I want to remain silent." Don't say anything else.

## IF THEY TAKE YOU TO JAIL

- Do NOT talk to police or anyone else about your case.
- Jail calls to family and friends are recorded. Calls with your lawyer are not recorded.
- Our Pretrial Release Unit (PRU) may be able to visit you in jail to advise you on your rights and next steps.
- If you are released, be sure to note the date and time that you must return to court.

## YOUTH RIGHTS

If you are under 18 in San Francisco:

- Police cannot question you until you speak with a lawyer. You cannot give up this right, even if asked.
- You have a right to privacy when you speak with a lawyer.
- If you are detained or arrested, police must notify your parent/guardian.

WE DEFEND  
ADULTS & YOUTH  
CHARGED WITH CRIMES  
IMMIGRANTS  
FACING DEPORTATION  
CONSERVED PEOPLE  
IN MENTAL HEALTH COURT  
PEOPLE IN PRISON  
SEEKING RESENTENCING  
PEOPLE WITH RECORDS  
SEEKING EXPUNGEMENT

## WORKING WITH YOUR DEFENSE TEAM

- Write down lawyer's name and phone number.
- Keep your lawyer updated on your address and phone number.
- Write down your court date and go to every court date on time to avoid a warrant for your arrest.
- Ask questions if you don't understand something.
- Everything you tell your lawyer is confidential.

## COURT BASICS

- *Arraignment*: At your first time in court, tell the judge if you can't afford a lawyer and one will be provided to you. Charges are read. You can plead "Not Guilty."
- *Preliminary Hearing*: The judge decides if some felony charges could be dismissed or reduced to misdemeanor charges.
- *Trial*: You are presumed innocent! You can only be found guilty if the charges are proven to ALL 12 jurors beyond a reasonable doubt.

## MISDEMEANOR VS. FELONY

- *Misdemeanor*: Lower-level charge with a possible penalty of up to 364 days in county jail.
- *Felony*: More serious charge with a possible penalty of 1 or more years in county jail or state prison.

## IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

- We defend everyone, no matter your immigration status.
- We defend people in immigration court who are fighting to stay in the U.S.
- Our Immigration Unit will explain how a criminal case can affect your immigration status.